Loues Load-starre.

LIVELY DECI-

phered in a Historie no lesse commendable than comfortable, for all those that in their louely affections, haue by the enmitie of their friends, bene molested with the menacing meteors of trossing misfortunes.

Leading also all kinde and true Louers, that in their choyces are frownd at by froward Parents, vnto the portfull Paradise of pleasurde Patience, and patient Pleasures.

By Robert Kittowe, *student.*

Ignauis nulla corona datur.

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The Authour to both the captious and the courteous Reader, health.

Reader reuolue not raſhly any worke,
In which thy curious eye doth chance to looke;
Either not reade, then (when thou readſt) to lurke
Euen Critique-like, to braide an Authors booke,
Regard with Souldiers toyle, the Students paine:
That little good hath; often this, leſſe gaine.

Know, that the fineſt Lawne, hath checquered ſtrakes,
In pureſt Wines, ſome hoarie dregges are ſeene;
The ſquamie ruſt, verdure from Iron takes;
The faireſt Roſe, with prickles pluckt hath beene:
One ſhaft, what Archer may not ſhoote amiſſe?
What worke ſo well, that no where fault is?

Farewell.

Rob. Kittowe.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

TO ALL GENE-

rous Gentlemen, that fauour the ſprin-
ging Flowres of Artes bodily health, and eternall happineſſe.

GEntles, I haue (with your fauours) deciphered a Load-ſtarre, in whoſe gleames ſhine good will, & whoſe glory is made ſplendent with loyall loues onely grace. Sometime when Eagles haue tried their yong Birds with the Sun-beames, they wil direct their vndazeled eyes to gaze at the bright gleames of Poets, a leſſe ſtarre; whoſe twinkeling ſparkelings may encreaſe their diſports. And (generous hearts) if your eyes that haue viewd the glorious Sun-ſhine of Artes graces, deigne (after the natures of thoſe mightie and magnanimous byrds) to beholde the dimme twinckeling of this vnperfect Load-ſtarre; you ſhall not only hereafter giue life to my labors, but by your gentle acceptance, make me bold to aduenture the archtecture of ſome worthier worke. The ſubiect, which ſerues for the Zodiack to this wandring Starre (which cõtinues the yeerly courſe of the Day-ſtarre, through the twelue Aſtro-

nomicall ſignes) is but meane; and therfore deſerues no coſtly colours to make it ſeeme ſplendent: If thē it pleaſe any, ſo much (I account it the better) reckon it you eſtimable, by how much it can diſpleaſe none. It may be ſome *Zoyliſt* will barke (as doo Wolues againſt the Moone) following againſt it the humorous phraſe of the baſe backbiter (all whoſe byrdes ſeeming to himſelfe Swannes, and other winged foules but night Crowes) vomits forth to his owne ſhame, what hee ſuppoſeth ſhould diſgrace others credits: and wanting teeth (as dooth the infectious Serpent *Porphyrius*) not being able to bite, is by his ſuſcepted enuious conceit (ingendred of the ſuppoſition of his owne ſingularitie (himſelfe moſtly martyred. And what maiſterdome is it to nip bloſſomes in their firſt ſpring? Can yoong byrdes flie till they proue and trie to plie their winges? Better kill Flies with a flap, than be idle; greater credit, to play ſmall game with his owne charge, than great ſummes at a caſt, to others coſt; and more commendable, to accompliſh plaine labors, than to be reckoned mongſt his acquaintauce and friends for a ſluggiſh loyterer. Theſe weake reaſons (Gentlemen) builded on a good ground, may not be denide to goe for currant, towards the free paſſe of this my pilgrim-like Starre, through the clymate of your acceptable eies: whoſe wandring courſe when you beholde, if you like it, loue it; if diſlike it, I pray, leaue it; It hath tane ariſing by Aſtronomicall computation, at the firſt beginning of the gay Springtide, the 9. of March laſt paſt, in the 1599. yeare of the worldes redemption

(noted

(noted by the vertue of an Eaſterne Starre to three Sages) and from the worldes firſt creation, and the dayes of olde *Adam*, 5562. when the Sunne tooke his direct entrance (following his accuſtomed progreſſe) towards the firſt minute of *Aries*: which ſigne Aſtronomers about that tide tearme Equinoctiall, becauſe then (when the Sunne enters therein) the dayes which in length were before ſhorter than the nightes, become with them checke-mate in equall Longitude. The naturall heate & moiſture of which pleaſant time, makes euery creature (as well vnreaſonable as reaſonable) to receiue comfort; and in their kinde, to encreaſe and multiply. When the chaunting birds eccho in the woods and fields, many a delectable kerelie; when the earth araide in her pride, and deckt with diuers colours, yeelds admiratiõ to thoſe, that cõtemplate on natures ornaments; which farre ſurpaſſe the reach of heauen-ſearching Art: And when, what pleaſure may be obtained in Gardens (dyapred with ſundry ſorts of flouriſhing Roſes and Flowers) or what ſolace, to ſee the ſpringing meades and paſtorall Countries; and what health may bee had by following Phiſicke rules; is both ſought and practiſed. The worſt is, that the coniunction then of *Iupiter* and *Saturne* (noting a corruptneſſe of the aire) may bee coniectured that many ſhall bee tormented with a chollericke & melancholie frenzie; which diſeaſe if it chance to breed enmitie mongſt the friends of mutuall Louers, may hap to increaſe their grieuous ſorrowes. Thus much

I thought

I thought moſt connenient to haue noted, as a *Preludium* to the originall and firſt ariſing of this Loadſtarre, whoſe luſtres (Gentles) I doubt not, but your kinde aſpects beholding, will indeuour to make it ſeeme reſplendent and rarely bountifull.

Yours well-wiſhing,

Rob. Kittowe.

Loues Load-ſtarre.

AT what time (as the Hiſtoricall Recoꝛds of auncient Annalls make mention) the King of Tunis, thꝛough the attempting bꝛauados of ſome inſulting Rebels, held the holde of his royall ſeate in hazard, as daily awaiting his downe-fall, dꝛawne thꝛough ciuil warres, and warlike mutinies: There lined in Palermo, the chiefe Citie of Scicilia, two moſt renowned Families, by whoſe ſpéedy helpes and ſtrong ſuppoꝛtes, both foꝛ men and Munition, pꝛouided and ſent foꝛth both by ſea & land, the diſtreſſed Kings enemies were mightily diſcomfited, and farre diſcarded from his territoꝛies of Tunis, and he himſelfe quietly repoſſeſſed his right: to the no ſmal comfoꝛt of the rebellious foe.

Foꝛ the Scicilian ſuffrages were ſo copious, and ſo coꝛreſpondent to the Kings petition, wholy paſſionate foꝛ want of peace, as that the Rebels being conuinced and vtterly ſubiected, were ſo ſcattered hefe and there with the ſuddaine aſſault of flie, flie, as that ſome ranne to the matchleſſe mountaines, and there wꝛought on themſelues ruthfull maſſacres: Others ſought out ſhelters in the wilde Foꝛreſts, and there foꝛ want of fode, and ſurpꝛized with feare of wilde beaſtes, remained in the iawes of dꝛeadful death: Others as extrauagant vagabõds exiled themſelues from their natiue homes into foꝛraign lands: and fearing their owne Country would pꝛoue too hot foꝛ their rebellious hearts: Others became Gally-ſlaues, Rouers and Pyꝛates at ſea, ventering the meane of their beſt lines, twixt Scilla & rauenous Charibdis: fewe ſubmitting to their Liege,

for feare of the penaltie of lawe: yet fewe or none through the iust decree of the doming heauens escaping punishment.

This inestimable benefite by the two Scicilian Nobles bestowed on this peace-minding King, wrought no small league of friendship and friendly amitie, both twixt Tunis and Scicilia: so farre forth, that whatsoeuer enemy seem'd repugnant to the one, was accounted rebellious to the other: both estæming themselues most fortunate, that euer the tantaras of warres so raigned, as to make their perdurable and plighted peace on both parties so worthily royaliz'd mongst other nations, and their neighbour Countries.

The two famous, honourable and renowned Scicilian Families, that were with all prosperities so maiestically fortified, were Seigniour Iacomin Pierro, and Don Alexander Bartolo; whom Nature and Fortune seeking to inrich in the highest measure with prodigall gifts, straind themselues so far, as that Fortune could bestow no more wealth, for they raigne haile-copemates with kings; nor Nature any more worth, for that two sweete offsprings brought to both parties more pleasure, than do the massie heapes of golden wealth comfort vnto the couetous.

Seignior Pierra had a sonne, and Don Bartolo a daughter, the one as liuely, as the other was louely; both adorned and beautified with all exquisite perfections both of body & mind.

And heere (Gentles) would I wil you to haue some worthie Pharus erected, for the better direction of your longing spirites, to viewe the variable motion of this wandring Loadestarre: eying whose course, your eyes wil be carried beyond ken of some credulitie: your eares be replenished with the diuers sounds of material varietie; and your hearts (I hope) be procurde to yeeld such materiall collusions some part of gratefull applauditie.

On a winters night, when the Sunne had trauerst in the clymate of the West, and was instantly entering into Aquarius; when brumall frosts and boystrous showres were most predominant, and men vse to expell the congealing colde

with

with comfortable fires; About that season of the yeare, both these Families according to their high degrées, with diuers other Gentlemen and gallant dames of Palermo in their companies, attended on likewise by the cunningest Musitians, went to one Don Andrea Alizandras house to reuell: Where after their Maskes and Mummeries were shewed, their measures with commendation traced, and the worthy Reuellers were reuealed, they fell to banquettings, and heauing Bacchus bowles. None seeming melancholy, but all merry, the Musitians to grace their mirth the more, to the concordance of diuers symphonying Instruments, sounded with harmonying voyces this Sonnet.

The Axiomes of Art
Haue fram'd a *Summum Bonum*,
To raigne abundantly on Earth:
But wise men (for their part)
Approue a *Summum Malum*,
Oppositely raigning without dearth.
And why?
Say I,
The contrary?
For where that Vertue holds some store,
Vile Vice hath alwaies ten times more.

We ioy, we sport, we play,
We eate, we drinke, we merrie make:
We sing all care away,
In wealth we chiefest pleasure take.
Yet see the Fee
Of this follie;
When that Death
Stopps our breath,
We must leaue all behinde:
When we go
Our riches fro,
In them small solace we shall finde.

Whats then Arts gloſe, that makes
A *Summum Bonum* ſo
To raigne on Earth imperfectly?
But euen a Net, that takes
Fondlings all in gripes of wo;
For following Errour wilfully.
And then,
Let men
With reaſon ken
What tis to truſt to worldly wealth?
Which is ſoone loſt through Fortunes ſtealth?
Whats Beautie, but a Flowre?
Whom ſicknes or decrepit Age
Do ſoone bereaue of power?
'Tis but lende cheerfull youth in gage.
And they, like May,
Both freſh and gay,
Hold a grace
In their face.
Till Nature takes away
(as tis true)
Her owne due;
Then looke they like to clodds of clay.
Vita, bulla.

The Muſitians hauing ſung this Morrall Sonnet concerning mortalitie, were commended of the moſt part, diſpraiſed by none, how ſoeuer contrary it ſeemde to their pleaſaunt diſpoſes: For it ſerued for ſawce, among their Cates that pampred their bodies, to sharpen their mindes. So that Don Andrea Alizandra chearing his honourable gueſts, thus began ſoberly to expoſtulate.

Not without good cauſe now I perceiue did the Thracians accuſtome in their banquettings, to ſerue forth at the Table dead mens Sculles, to reſtraine their gueſts from glottonous appetites: For ſith all worldly commodities are ſo momentary;

mentary, all pleaſures ſo changeable, all eſtates ſo inconſtant, what more excellent meane to attaine perfection can mortall men vſe, than to meditate on their ende, and to remember death, as the *Vltima linea rerum?* No doubt (anſwered Signior Pierro) but that the remembrance of our lateſt home, is a moſt heauenly and Angelicall contemplation: For the renowned Philip of famous Macedonia, would euery morning be admoniſhed by his Page before his vprising, of his mortalitie. And Plato (ſurnamed the Diuine) would alway ſléepe holding a Ball of Braſſe in his hand, directly ouer a Baſon, to the intent that with the fall thereof, he might be recald from ſluggiſhneſſe and drowſie ſloth: vſed argumentall propoſitions, concerning the chiefe perfities of *Summum Bonum* or the chiefeſt good.

Some, (as that firſt of all I may remember our preſent paſtimes) laide downe many groundes, touching pleaſure, feaſtings, carowſes, and ſuch like, and therein to be containde a *Summum Bonum*: For what greater felicitie (according to mans carnall reaſon) may be enioyed on earth, than to liue merrily voyd of care, and frée from perturbations? We reade, that there were diuers feſtiualls celebrated and ſeriouſly obſerued, with the common conſent of whole Countries, by the Bacchinalls: Diuers games accuſtomed, as ſome ordained by Apollo, after the downfall of the huge Serpent Pithon, which were titled Pithonia; And far haue the games of Olimpus bin hunted, where all commers ſpent the time in mirth, iollitie, and abundant cheare. All which conſidered, it mou'd the Sect of the Epicures to aduaunce worldly pleaſure vnto the height of *Summum Bonum*.

Whilſt Pierro thus reaſoned, there came a ſuddain meſſenger, that informed, how his ſonne young Iacomin was taken in a ſuddaine traunce, and had loſt both his ſpéech & ſence, euen ready to yéeld vp the ghoaſt.

No ſoner was that meſſage done, but that newes was brought to Bartolo, that if he would euer behold his daughter Katherina liuing, he ſhould haſten home, for that ſhe was

ſaine into a ſuddaine conſumption, and euen woxne to ſkin and bone, as if ſhe had bene ouer-loked by ſome outragious monſter.

Theſe ſoxrowfull tydings ſo amazed theſe Parents, that (as impatient as olde Priam, that ſawe his childxen all lie gaſping, and the Citie on fire) they began on both ſides to be euen thxough outrage at their wittes ende: Lifting cries vp to the heauens, tearing their haires, and raging gainſt the Deſtenies, that had ſo cruelly concluded the period of all their future hopes in ſo ſhoxt a circuite: cutting off thoſe bxaunches, by whoſe fruites they expected to liue after their olde barkes were withered. Don Andrea comfoxted them, the whole aſſembly intreated them, nought auailed; foxtheir hearts burned with fire, and their mindes with feare, vntil their longing eies viſited their diſtreſſed offxings: And ſo with paces as ſwift as their diſtempered feete could ſuppoxt, they haſted both to their ſeuerall homes.

Don Andrea Alizandra conſidering this vnexpected chaunge, thxough ſo vnfoxtunate a chaunce, ſet downe his cenſure as a pxinciple that *Omnia humana mutabilia.* But what (ſaith he) ſhould I, that from my infancie haue bene attendant on the buckelings of couragious Mars, now ſeeme to muſter in ſentences vnder the coxrection of graue Minerua? *Victa eſt fortuna ferendo.* I haue indurde, and ſo haue ouercome: They are but Foxtunes nouices, that cannot with patience oppugne any inconuenience; A death is due to nature, and the ſoner that we die, the ſoner are our debtts ſatiſfied.

Men may not be moxtall, then would the creature advance him beyond the Creatox: As Promethеus would, attempting to ſteale the fire of eternall life from heauen: foxwhich cauſe Iupiter adiudged him to be tyed at colde Caucaſus, and there eternally to haue his limmes deuoured by a Vulture. *Contentus ſua ſorte, beatior Policrate.* I, I, a contented minde is all in all. Did we not ſometime taſte the ſoxxe, we ſhould not well perceiue the ſweet: were we not now and then croſt with miſfoxtunes, we could not know what it were to be foxtunate.

Peace

Peace is the mother of ſecuritie, and ſecuritie the nurſe of pouertie, and pouertie the author of infamie: for, nil habet infœlix, paupertas durius in ſe, quam quod ridiculos homines facit. And yet muſt we gratefully welcome all, that the ſupernall Gods do ſend to worke our triall: and happie, yea thrice heppy is that man that ſo may be purified. Hauing thus contemplated with himſelfe on the forſaid accidents, to driue off that encreaſing melancholy paſſion, he toke in hand his Lute, and thereon recorded this Dittie.

Men gainſt Gods once did warre,
Which ſhould haue preheminence:
But the end of their iarre,
Bred mans fall for his offence.
Men ought not to fall at oddes,
In any caſe with th'immortall Gods.

Aſpiring minde, brought *Phaëton*
To all extreames of wretchednes:
The like endur'd *Bellerophon*,
Through his audacious venterouſnes.
The one would gouerne *Phœbus* carres;
The other mount vp to the ſtarres.

Reſt content in your eſtates,
Be they high, or be they lowe;
Shun you ſhall then debates,
That on mindes diſtempered growe.
Still take heed by others fall,
A minde content, ſurpaſſeth all.
Contentus eſto, & eſto fœlix.

By this time were Pierro and Bartolo come home, and made eye-witneſſes of their former ſuppoſed miſhappes: *Iaconim* ſawe his ſonne ſhiuering as it were, ſurprized with a quartane feuer: Bartolo beheld his daughter ſhaking and

quaking,

quaking, as though ſhe were ſet on by the falling ſickneſſe: Both of theſe patients made ſhews, gaue ſignes and tokens, to the amazement of all that were preſent in their bed-chambers: and ſo much the more, becauſe they ſpake no word, but were alwaies ſilent. Some ſaid, this miraculous maladie of theſe younglings, was bred by ill ſight; ſome ſaid, they were Planet ſtroken: ſome againe ſaide, they were ſtraungely bewitched: Scinditur incertum ſtudia in contraria vulgus, &c. euery one vttered diuerſly what their mindes gaue them to excogitate. But the woefull parents (hauing on both ſides viſited and reuiſited theſe miſerable Orphanes) had the ſkilfulleſt Doctors ſent for with all ſpeed poſſible: all preſeruatiues prouided, that had vertue eureable; leauing nothing vnſought, nor meanes vnmade, that might be deuiſed auailable. Yet nought releaſed them of their extreame traunces, nor mitigated their perillous maladies: Which encreaſed the ſharper ſorrowes of the parents, the griefe of their noble kindred, the veratiõ of their friends, and the diſcomfort of all the people of Palermo; Sic variat Fortuna vices.

You that haue ſeene a Merchant ſtanding on the hatefull ſhore, beholding the Veſſell which on the ſeas remaineth fraught with his whole venture, in hazard of ſincking; and liſting his eyes to the heauens, crieth out, O Gods! I am vndone, vtterly vndone; In the like paſſion, or a more behement, may you ſuppoſe all preſent to remaine, for theſe two diſtreſſed and diſeaſed members. For if men take heauily common contrary caſualties, as the huſbandman receiuing an vnfruitfull harueſt; the craftſman deceiued of his ſubſtance by beguilefull debters: the ſhepheard hauing his flocks peſtered, though the infection of ſome ſcabioſum pecus; and ſuch like diſparaging inconueniences: how may it happen otherwiſe, but that fathers take tenne times more grieuouſly the loſſe of their onely children? vnleſſe they had the incomprehenſible Faith of the auncient Patriarch; that obeying his makers commaund, was content to ſacrifice his onely ſonne, of whom (he had tryple promiſe from his God) there ſhould

proceed

proceed so many renowned Tribes, and nations, multiplied in such number, as incomparabilitie should equal the innumerable starres of the resplendent heauens.

Now generous Readers must my pen shew the cunning of a Painters Pencil; as this, with shadowes and colours of varietie, so that, with some proper deciphering speeches to portraite a reuiuing noueltie.

The Destenies had not yet cancelled the date of those Louers dayes, nor Atropos knife was yet prepared, to cut the twist, whereon hung the tenure of their liues: The scars which both of their brests had received (as impression of wanton Cupids shafts) stucke so neare their tender hearts, as for a while (till the stintie sting and pricking wound thereof was delated) their whole bodies in every ioynt continued distemperate, and their hearts panting, and disconsolate. For the euening before that nights reuiuall, when both their Parents (as is before rehearsed) were feasting with Don Andrea Alizandra, these two prittie peates meeting eache other at their Fathers doore (for the two dwelling places, the beauteous building of that flourishing Citie, were ioynde hard the one with the other) attended on both sides with hansome hand-maides and prowper Pages (for their yeares had not yet brought them to the state of man and woman, for he was then but a youth, and she but a girle, both of some twice fiue yeares of age, as faire a couple, as were the two beauties of the Goddes Sapho and Phao,) where after gentle salutations imparted, according to theyr kinde dispositions (bestowed on them by bountifull Nature at their births) they accorded (taking with them so many of their young followers as they thought conuenient) to walke into a groane, which stood on the Westerne side of the Citie: accounting such sheltring vallies farre more pleasaunt in the winters season, than are the plaine fields. What parley they had (walking on the way) it were tedious to recite: onely thus much would I wish you to note, that every step of theirs, traced now towards that company, whose presence they in manner reiected, because as vnbidden guests they came into their company

vnex-

vnexpected. As they were walking by the groaues side, listning to the murmurings of a bubling brooke, Katherina espied a Vermin, that with greedie gaping mouth was pursuing his praie: which she shewing to Iacomin, (for her name was Katherina, and he was calde Iacomin after his Father) and he perceiuing it to hasten the beast the swifter to take his footing (as the common manner is) cried, So, ho, ho: which was answered by the tatling Eccho, (as if in presence and despight of Katherina, she minded to court young Iacomin, as she had heretofore that scornefull yonker Narcissus) with an other So, ho, ho: which Katherina hearing, moued with suddaine mirth, brake out into a loude ha, ha, ha: and the Eccho as if were with the same semblance of laughture, replied againe with Ha, ha, ha: Iacomin hearing Katherinas voyce so merrily doubled, rauisht with pleasant conceit to heare such a pratling, bad come hither: come hither said the Eccho. Which speech infusing into Katherinas minde an amorous motion, calde with high voice, Away, away: which was in like maner so shrilly resounded by the Eccho. Hauing soone wearied their winde-pipes with hard hallowings, they past forward to enter the groaue, where presently Aboron and his faire Aurelia, with their troupes of Fairies and Syluane Satyres, (hauing taken Cupid captiue, for that he counterfeyted a Faierie, to winne the beauteous Psiches) were dauncing in ringed rounds, and some with low voices warbled this Roundelaie.

Venus eied
Adonis flowre,
And espied
Cupids Bower:
Bower sweete,
Bower faire,
Venus seete
Then tracst there.
And there sawe *Psiches* walking,
Then with her fell a talking,

Nymph (said she)
Of sweete hue,
Tell your name,
Tell me true:
Why in wyldie
Woods thus grow,
Doest accompanie
Buck and Doe?
If thou be of *Diana* traine,
Why alone here doest remaine?
Phœbe sad,
Gan to say,
How she had
A Louer gay,
Cupid fine,
Cupid faire,
That as mine
Did repaire
But (which most did me spighe)
I beheld him here with sighe.
Kisse I did
Prittie lips,
That were hid
In eclipse
Feele I might
Daintie face,
Which my sight
Nere would grace.
But when I would him see,
In the night, fled from mee.
Telst me so?
Venus said
And frowned tho)
Th'art the maide,
On whose shrine
Arcadia

(Scorning

(Scorning mine
And *Cypris*)
Haue oblations offred,
And vs wrongs haue proffred.
And yet (dame)
Not content
To winne fame,
Through euent,
But must wedde
Venus sonne,
To thy bedde?
As th'ast donne:
Yet not pleasd (voyd of grace)
Must presume to see his face?
Venus wrath
Psiches mou'd,
(Fearing scath
Which she prou'd)
Venus frets,
And with breath
Thundred threats
Of hard Death:
Psiches kneeles, pardon askes,
Venus bindes her to do taskes.
First she brings
Many graines,
And them flings
On the plaines:
Bids her then
Well to winde
Euery graine
With his kinde.
Cupid tendring *Psiches* wo,
Sent two Doues to helpe her tho.
Venus sends
To *Lethe* Lake,

And intends
The fierie Drake
Should her slay,
Should her spill:
As that day
Was *Venus* will.
But the Dragon sleeping soft,
Psiches scopte, and water brought.
Mothers rage
Gainst his Loue,
To asswadge
Doth *Cupid* proue:
But *Cyberus*
Psiches sends
To *Proserpina*,
Mongst the Fiends:
Thence to bring a Boxe of Beautie,
This must needs be done in dutie:
Psiches wept,
Cupid mou'd,
To her stept,
(Whom he lou'd)
Lasse (quoth he)
Neuer doubt,
Thou with glee
Shalt bring't about.
Hold that Coyne, pay the Ferrie,
That Soppe for the Porter carrie.
Psiches past
Charons Boate,
(Not agast)
To Hell gote:
There the Curre
Had a soppe,
And from her
Well did cloppe

Of Hells Queene a Boxe she had,
And return'd passing glad.
Cupid smilde.
Venus wrath
Waxing milde
Did not loath
Psiches state,
State diuine:
Thus did hate
Loue combine.
But Loues ioy breeds our hate,
Cupid liues in coprines state.
Virtutem sequitur comes Inuidia.

In midst of these Faieries sportings, Iacomin and Katherina came among them, not perceiuing them, and hearing melodie as it were made by the Antipodes vnder grounde, were surprised euen with an extasie of admiration: supposing that some of Dianas darlings frequented about these places, where none euer to their knowledge or hearing did abide. So were they Inchaunted with these inuisible Musitians cantazons, their watchfull senses wax sleepie, and being ouercome with drowsinesse (as was that many eyed Heardsman of the Goddesse Iuno, by the melody of bewitching Mercurie) laie them downe all one by one, on a green bank of fragrant grasse: which yeelded so sweete a sauour to their smelles, as the vnmanured plots of the all-fruitfull garden of the Hesperides. How wanton the waggish Faieries were to behold these sluggards, especially the two Palermonian Scicilians, Iacomin & Katherina, who imbraced one an other with inclosed armes, (as did the beauteous Venus, hugging y gallant Adonis) I leaue to your singular censures. But by the way, I would haue you consider, that Cupid amazed with this noueltie, thinking Katherina had bin his beloued Psiches, (for whose sake the amorous wagge had endured so many and sundry mishaps) stretching his fettred legges forward with all his power, euen vnawares

wares let flie a golden headed arrow at Iacomins brest, wherwith hée being wounded, gaue midst his slumbers grée uous grones: wherby Cupid moued with pittie and compassion of his so rash a déed (procured through sonde suspition) sent an other at Katherinas stomache: mightie to worke the same effect in the one, as the former should in the other. And for amends of his folly, to mire their corasiues with some prittie caueat: commaunding his attendant Syluanes to tune their Pipes, he recorded this pithie Madrigale.

Cupids Madrigale.

After the deluge,
In vertuous *Deucalions* ventrous daies,
Apollo fortunate in his assaies,
Slewe the Serpent huge,
With bowe and shaft:
And therefore had
To make him glad,
Great praises as he ought.

Then the Lawrell Baie
On browes of Conquerours was neuer set,
For no such Tree e're growing was as yet:
(So learned Poets saie)
But the Iuie bowe,
Or Oken branch
(That harme can stanch)
Did serue (I trowe)

Guarded with a quiuer
Of sharpe shafts that Loue bred passionate,
Phœbus met me, mustring by the Citie gate:
(And as a scorner
Deriding much my deitie)
With words reuiling

Then

Then cald me fondling,
And thus I made replie,
Though gainst *Python*(*Phabus*)
Thou hast gotten preheminence,
Yet maist dearly chance t'abide this offence:
Marke what I do discusse,
And therewith from bowe
I did let flie
A shaft fiercely,
That bred *Apollos* woe.

In the woods wandring
Peneas louely daughter he espide,
And intreating her (to be his bride)
Daphne ranne forth flying,
He followed with swift course,
Gainst winde and raine:
(Vnto his paine)
She shewed no remorse.

As the fearefull Hare
From the speedie-lenting hunting Hound,
So fled *Daphne Apollo* in that stound:
Marke this my compare.
Th'one for feare fled fast,
Th'other hasted
And no time wasted
To follow not agast.

Daphne panting sore,
Running eagerly through tearing brakes:
Euen subdewde: *Phebus* breath her haire through-takes;
Fainting more and more.
Then she mainly praide,
O *Peneã* streames,

Fence me from his claimes,
Send a Virgin aide.

Phebus had ore-tane her,
(Hoping to enioy what he deſirde)
But the ſacred Deitie conſpirde,
Safely to preſerue her:
For her haire became
Branches of faire Baie,
(That did flouriſh aie)
And her corps were euen the ſame.

So when he ſuppoſde,
T'haue imbracſt his louely *Daphnes* bodie,
With a barke (that Lawrell bowes bare gently)
It was all incloſde,
And offring it to kiſſe,
His branched loue
Did from him moue,
In whom he plac'ſt his bliſſe.

Well (quoth *Phebus*) ſince
I may not now enioy thee as my deare;
Yet in tryumphs will I thy bowes weare:
Thus loue did him conuince,
And he numbd at the hart:
Then ſickly ſaide
He was diſmaide
By my deepe wounding dart.
Tantum male-ſanus Amor obeſt.

Cupid hauing thus recouered his powerfull Deitie, and imprinted (as it were with preſſing ſtampes) his nightineſſe in the ſtomackes of theſe Nouices, with ſlie wings ſtole from the frolick Faieries: whoſe vnexpected flight, moued Aboron and his Aurelia, to an infinite admiration. For Cupid ſuſpe-

ting the falshood of his powerfull Loue (intending to see if all with her were well) in rurall sort counterfaited the shape of Coridon, and in plaine Country speech neare his owne bower thus bluntly courted her. Faire Nymph (quoth he) sawst any Lambes grazing on these plaines? I haue miss a Ewe (ywis) and her young one; and it may be that some giddie Priapus (prying about my vieldes) hath driuen my blocke from the faire plaines, that (wandring by the by-waies of the woods and Fountaines here about) line vnherde, vngrazde, vncowted, without littering strawe, and bode to chawe, both within and without? God friend (answered Phiches) no such Cattle haue mine eyes beheld wandring on these plaines, and yet they might happe to passe for mée as vnseene: But hast thou chanced to see any Faieries vpon yonder Fountaines, leading a faire and beautifull youth (a God indeed) like a captiued prisoner? Whom in spight they haue made a bond slaue mongst them, moued through disdainfull and mercilesse enuie. For whose sake I spend the night in woe, and the day in lamentations. Cupid hearing his Loue inquiring after himselfe (as did Mercury vnderstand himselfe, betrayed vnto himselfe by a couetous Swain) tooke compassion on her passions, and shewed him vnto her eyes apparantly: saying, Diuine and approued Goddesse, (whom with glory, omnipotent Iupiter with all the powers celestiall haue deified, and the rusticke Demigods and Satyres, for vertue and worthinesse, with Hymnes and commendable Roundelaies haue glorified, as well for this sacred beautie, as for thy admired fortunes) Behold, thou hast found him, whom thy wamenting words haue sought: behold, thine eyes see him for whom thy selfe hast made enquiry, therefore be cheerfull, enter my solemne bower: there are others greeued with our disease. And after such speeches vttered, he entred the Cabinet, comforted her, and kist her: and vnfolded his exployt performed towards the two tender Scicilians. In the meane time, the Faieries missing Cupid, (whose speedy flight had bid thē adieu) being inraged, that he was so secretly escaped their fingers without any intreatie: with pace as swift

as runs the light-footed Roe, forsoke that place, and trauerst ses and fro, endeauouring to enquire him out. Thus they resting vncomfortable, left the drowsie Sicilians comfortlesse: who not long after awaked of their slumbers, were as faint, as the faintest: as sicke, as the sickest: and for the time, as ill apaide, as he that (sanus credet) plaide for feare of arresting, least in sight: That scarce able to finde footing, or like yong children to tappe and goe, were by their attendants (with much adoo) conducted and carried home to Palermo: where their Parents, kindred and friends (not knowing what chaunce had happened them) bewailed their suddaine sicknesse with multiplicitie of sorrowfull teares: endeauouring (as is beforerehearsed) by all meanes inuented, to haue their maladies cured.

But when all medicines performed for remedies, serued in small sort or in no value and efficacie at all to worke their ease, they? worthy Parents were counsailed by the Sicilian Southsayers, to send some, to aske the Oracles of Apollo at Delphos: both concerning they? vnsearchable disease, as also, how long the Destenies had decreed they should breath on earth: For these Oracles did not onely vnfold things present, and things past, but also could expresse things to come, though euermore mystically. And this was their censure to the demaund of the Inquirers.

The verdict of the Oracles.

These grieued ones, whose bodies you suppose subiected to disease,
As are the corps of common men (through many thousand waies)
Shall be againe to health restorde: and eke behold with eies
Their Parents houses changed from lone to hate, in wandrous wise.
Whose hard dissentions shall their minds so mightily annoy,
That whilst it lasteth, their poore hearts shall scarce haue earthly ioy.
Great perrils are they to sustain, euen at the dint of death,
And yet at length recure their ioyes before they loose their breath.
Nay more, their only lone shall cause their Parents (being old)
Againe to ioyne new leagues of friendly lone: So rest resolu'd.

which verdict pronounced by the Oracle, gaue them hope of their recoueries (the rest being not vnderstood, concerning what chaunges of their friendship in future time should fall through vnexpected chaunces) and the wofull Parents therby receiued comforte; which some after, euen in the Aprill of their consolations, were scorched with blasts of boysterous confusions. All which (that my pen may sufficiently portraie) for the augmentation of your more wished pleasures, I will vnfolde first their generall agreements, and would especially haue you consider that, that their ciuil mutinies growne on suddaine, may (with the frownes of frowarde Fortune gainst those approued Louers) shewe them more apparant. For our Load-starre must continue a course for Decorams sake, in this proportioned Zodiacke: It hath now past Aries and Taurus, (signes fit for thole, whole foreheads are forked) as (it may be) was petie Aborons mongst his Faieries: Or (as tis manifest) Vulcans browes haue bene (by the wantonnesse of his Venus) and now is it entring lonely Gemini, and descending towards crabbed Cancer, is euen inforced to turne his progresse an other way; shewing vs long dayes of sorrow to vere Louers proceedings; but short nights of quiet, to driue off melancholies. So that when it shall returne home to the original Horizon, his course wil seeme to procure causes of no small admiration.

What frolicke feastings on furnisht Tables do swarme in Palermo, when the well willing Commons knewe of the recouered healths of these Noble branches before diseased, are to be extold and equallized with those costly Cates and curious carowses, that Marke Anthony receiued of loue-sicke Cleopatra for a welcome: What reuellings were made, may seeme comparable to the games and gambolds exploited by Meleager and his gallant companions, after the downfall of the feared and daungerous Boare of Calidon. And the better to maintaine their sportings, great summes of moneyes were most freely bestowed, by both these commaunding Potentates: who thought themselues wholy indebted to the assisting gods,

for

for their childrens welfares. So that both Families feaſted together in one place, and kept holiday: as do Commaunders with their Captaines and martiall Officers, in time of plighted peace together in pitcht Pauilions. Yet was not all ỹ world made pleaſaunt with theſe their pleaſures, nor pleaſed with their paſtimes: For the earth is Empreſſe Fortune, (whoſe wauering handes is alway turning the wheele of reſtleſſe chance) pretended to plaie ſuch a pranke, to ſowre their ſweets, as ſhould ſet all Scicilia euen on fire, and put Palermo to the ouerthrow by the flames.

Yet ere you heare how ſhe wrought this warfare, I would will you to ponderate in minde, the louely ſparkes of inſpired affections, that fed on the fuell of young Iacomins and Katherinas hearts: whoſe ſtomackes in all theſe banqueting times, were not fed ſo much with the diuers diſhes, as were their eies delighted with mutuall glaunces.

Many a time, would they walke in Orchard Allies, hand in hand: many a time tread garden knots, following one another mongſt bankes of ſauorie hearbes and flowers: many a time, to their noble Parents contentations, would they tread pacing meaſures, and daunce nimble Galliers, directing their footings with the ſet time of the Muſitians: to the beholders eyes (that were ſomewhat dazeled with their beauties & brauueries) like two reſplendent ſtarres: That had Iuno ſeene Katherina, ſhe would euen haue bene beſide her ſelfe, through iralouſie of her ſuſpected Iupiter, as ſhee was gainſt Inachius daughter Io. And wanton Mars would be far diſmaied, as fearing leaſt his Venus would fancie Iacomin, for an other Adonis. What ſhould I ſeeme tedious: they were louely, and loued liuely: and as their youthfull dayes were by Tymes preſcription multiplied, ſo were their beauties together with their affections, made moſt perfect: and their hearts (both vnited and felled in one ſympathie) expectd but Hymens rightes to be performed, with the enioying of their generous Parents halfe-accompliſht and willing conſents.

But Lady Fortune, that ſquint-eyed Goddeſſe, that on the

Stage of this woꝛlde loues Comicke merriments should bee mixed with Tragicke matter, bꝛed dissentions twixt these two honourable and renowned Families, (first pꝛocured by some controuersies twixt their seruants) which by litle and litle grew so hot, that Enuies sparkes holding a furnace in their bꝛeasts, burst foꝛth in fierie flames with such fury, as all the outcries of the Citizens foꝛ Clubbes, Clubbes, could not diminish: noꝛ the moysning waters of the Commons entreaties pacifie the outragious wꝛaths of those angry inkindled parties. They that befoꝛe friendly feasted togither, now are daring to field one another: They that befoꝛe with inuenked merriments sought to cheare themselues, now fretting with chasing melancholy, doo discontentedly disease themselues: both parties, in stæd of banquetings, follow bucklings: and reuiling all conuersing peacemakers, pꝛonounce their angrye commotions with *Si non nobiscum, sis contra nos:* neither respecting the good of the Common weale, to their gouernment committed: noꝛ the welfare, either of themselues, their friends, oꝛ kinsfolke. Now all degenerous Cauelairos and swash-bucklers (that in time of concoꝛd durst not sheiue their seditious countenances, noꝛ open their mutinous mouthes that commonly bꝛed despightfull iarres) flockt in troupes to be partakers of these alarmes. The Communaltie was diuided, adioyning to what partie best their minde regarded: and Palermo was made euen a Pharsalian Tent: foꝛ martiall Mauors with bowles of bloud, and banquets of diuinal massacres to be made frolicke. Such bꝛauing, such bandying, such buckeling was euery day on both sides with bꝛawles and bꝛoyles bestowed, that I may wel say with the illustrious Poet, *Fit via vi, &c.*

How should I compare Palermo, (whose stꝛéts are now guarded with crackling armours) but to the Roman Synode, at such time as Catilines rebellious troupes harnised thꝛoughout with coates of male, vncald and vnwelcome, came to destroy the Senates Councell? Oꝛ vnto that murmuring assembly that were pꝛesent, when Brutus and Cassius treacherously stabd conquering Cæsar, clad in his Parliament Robes, with murdering Bodkins?

Ye

☞ He that aboue all others was no medler in theſe hurly-burlies, was that valiant & euer vertuous minded man, Don Andrea Alizandra: who one day beholding Signior Iacomin Pierro, and Don Alexander Bartolo, bearding and bandying other, laught (with the Philoſopher) at their outrage: and ſayd within himſelfe, that needs muſt the inferiour members (meaning the vulgar ſort) fall at iarres, ſith the heades (minding them) cannot gouerne them, but are become giddie. And therupon prouiding all conuenient neceſſaries, left diſſentious Palermo, and went to dwel in a goodly Farme of his owne in the country: and before he departed, gaue Palermo the like adieu, as did the wiſe Bias Boriſthenes, towards ſackt Priennium, viz. Now ſtand or fall, burne or quench, I care not: for *Omnia mea mecum porto.*

But what griefe were theſe deadly controuerſies, to the concordant mindes of our heartie Louers? what annoyance was it for them to beholde their Parents browes eclipſt and clouded with gloomy menaces of reuenge: and themſelues with feare ſo ſeruilely ſubiected, as they durſt not looke one another in the face? and yet could not this ſeperation of body (though they were ouerlookt with Argus eyes, by their hate-ſtomaking Syres) ſeperate the zealous coniunction of their louing minds. Firſt when theſe broyles began, would they conuerſe and parley (ſuch Lynces eyes hath Loue) through a creuiſe twixt two walles; and ſo by talke euacuate the corasiues that oppreſt their tender ſtomackes, by vttering forth their mutuall ſorrowes. Which being at length vnderſtood by Bartolo, who on a time eſpied, liſtned a while to their conference, and not enduring it, taking Katherina by the gowne-ſleeue from her ſtande (where ſhe beholding her Father, ſhiuered as if in an agonie) he leading her in, thus gan to rebuke her ſharply.

And art thou (Girle) ſo led with fond affection, as to vſe conference with thy Fathers enemy? who not only by raiſing ciuil iarres, and dreadful ſlaughters of our wel-willers and friends, ſeeke our ouerthrow: but alſo by all enuious meanes, ſeeke in pollicie to procure our diſgrace? Do not thy eyes be-

hold (fondling as thou art) how Palermo murmureth on our behalfe, to behold these mischeeuous hurly-burlies: Doth not all Sicilia admire at their hautie hatred taken against vs, raised by maintaining a sottish creawe of proude peacockes: Hath folly dazeled thine eyes, that voyd of considerate regard, thou seemest so Beetle-blinde: Huswife, I charge thee, not only refraine the company, but take heed (on my heauy displeasure) vse no conference with that impious brat, whose flattery tends to no other ende, but to worke thine infamy: Let not faire words (you weake fole) make you faine to follow his fancie, least it breed cause of repentance. Thy fresh wit cannot prie into mens wylie pollicies, and therefore take direction of thy Parents: For if thou hast not the whitrie to perceiue thine owne good, and discerne thy losse and disparagement, and yet will seeme so headie, as a friende, to make choyce of thy Fathers foe: Receiue counsaile (thou wert best) and be aduised better hereafter: else in running the race of a stubborne fondling, (without regard, not ruled by reason, nor taught by experience) thou maist chaunce tread on thornes, and being deeply pricked, cry woe: when none shall pittie thy distresse. Thou knowest my minde, amend this amisse, or runne headlong to mischiefe, and haue no helpe. Go to thy mother, go; vile Girle. And so he left her.

This sharpe cherbe surprized poore Katherinas passionate soule, with such vehement suppose, that halfe distracted of her sences, scarce able with her trembling feete to ascend the staires craued her Closet, where when she entred, fetcht deepe and heartie-shiuering sighes, faintly drawing breath; fell into a suddaine sowne; and hauing againe recured her memorie, she vttered to her selfe this sorrowfull complaint.

Ah Loue, (quoth she) the onely Lampe and Load-starre of life; how peruersly art thou burthened with Atlas loade? Ah life, the greatest light of the world; how art thou clowded with the counterfait of death? Ah death, the onely phisitian to cure a greeued heart: Why withdrawest thou (merciless as thou remainest) thy piercing dart to cut off my woful dayes,

lengthned

lengthned so long by the spitefull Destenies? Ah Destenies, the continual consumers of mortal life, cut, ah cut off the twist of my dates: for I abhorre all my liuing daies prolonged by the lingring slacknesse of doating Tyme. Ah Tyme, the deuourer of all earthly things; suffer this hateful breath of mine to forsake my wretched breasts habitation, that my poore soule with the winges of a Doue may mount vnto the glorious heauens. Ah heauens, the predominant gouernours of mortal bodies, and blessed receptacles of deified soules; deliuer a wretched soule from a distressed bodies poyson, to haue some comfortable content with your sacred selues, amongst the glorious Seraphins. Heauens, Destenies, Tyme and Death, accord in one, to the end my miserable life, and with my life, my inspired, and yet discomfortable loue.

Then she staide: from her wofull heart shooting forth volleys of sad sighes, and powring from the conduicts of her Christall eyes, streames of teares, that trilled downe her Lilly diue cheekes: and hauing by these meanes a little lightened her burthened stomacke, thee thus againe beganne to ruminate.

And shall my Fathers browes furrowed with frownes, or his words, as sharpe as the blastes sent forth by Boreas, turne or driue away my Loue, that ought to me his dearest life? No (by the Gods) no: whilst I liue, if his heart remaine loyall (as though his heart tho, would remaine otherwise, that thus thou pleadest with Ifis) oh! whilest I liue (I say) will I loue my Iacomin. But (and then she shote forth salt teares) our Fathers, our froward and furious Fathers (ah! that Parentes should seeme crosse to the godly procedings of their children) our Fathers, that should be our best helpes, are our most hinderers: our Fathers who (in furthering our choyce) should chiefly pleasure vs, do chiefly displeasure vs: their enmitie, confuseth our amitie: their contentions, infringde our contentations: their armours, our amours: their aggreuates, our agreements: their frowres, our affections: their hardie speeches, our heartie sportings.

Ah hard, hard, hard happe: Goe to thy mother, vile Girle (quoth he) and so flung from his onely childe in anger. Should I tell my mother, what would she replie? I know what; I must not loue his offpring, that Serpent-like intends my Parents downfall. As though the faulte of the Father, were rightly to be reputed to the sonne, who wisheth peace if it were possible: requireth quiet, if it might bee graunted requisite: commendeth concord, thereby to haue all reconciled: And yet is he (ah! he, my ioy and comfort, my Iacomin) he is had as an Agent in these hurly-burlies. Therefore Katherina, wretches and miserable Katherina, sith thine eyes are debarred from beholding the light of thy vniuersall consolation, let thy Closette become a sollitarie Cell: which mantled all about with blacke sorrowe, may seeme (to thy best content) euen the shades of Cymmeria: for what more may excruciate a macerated soule (whose eyes abhorre the light) than to behold the lightsome day?

Hauing thus said, abounding passions stopt the organons of her voice, and feeling her selfe faint, laid her feeble limmes on her woe-acceptable bed: there neither permitting her outward eyes, nor yet her inward minde to enioy any rest.

Now turne we on the other side to yong Iacomin, whose eares hauing heard in some part howe shee was railed and rated at by Bartolo; stealing sadly to his Chamber, with eyes full of teares, brest swolne with sobbes, and hart burdened with passion, hee burst forth into these disconsolate clamours.

O hapleste, helpleste, and hopeleste Caitiue: Hapleste, because voide of all good happe, and therefore vnfortunate: Helpleste, for that thou (wretched thou) wantst all comfortable help, and therefore accursed: And hopeleste, in that all hope of comfort hath fled thy company, and therefore desperate. And sith thou art so vnfortunate, so accurst and desperate, banne Fortune, curse the Fates, and so dispaire and die: for onely death may bring thee some happe to win helpe, or some helpe to enioy hope of future comfort, where now thou remainest wholly comfortleste. Then he pawsed a space, and with milder mode

thus

thus went forward. And yet (Iacomin) remember thy selfe, be not driuen to dispaire through distrust: As thou hast lost thy ioyes, so may thy ioyes againe chaunce to be found. Policrates had a precious Iewel in the belly of a fish serued at his board, which he let fall into the sea. This onely chaunce, hath made this chaunge.

Thou hadst (not long since) libertie and leaue, not only to behold, but also to imbrace thy Loue in thy Parents presence. But that libertie is lost, that leaue is out of date, that frædome is past, and thou art made the bond-slaue of all miserie. And yet the course of time may restore them all: but when? And with that he stood as though he had beheld Medusas head, till after a while comming to himselfe, he proceeded with these exclaimes. O vnhappie estate of Princes: whose dignities placed on the whirling wheele of vnconstant Fortune, stand in such vncertaintie, as when they mount to the highest degree and loftiest altitude of honour & prosperitie, euen at an instant, they are topsie-turuie ouerturned & tumbled downe to the lowe touch of the ground, with disgrace & beggery. *Percutiunt fulmina Montes, non valles infimos.* Would I had bene of baser Parentage, so might I haue obtained more patience, to endure misfortunes: I, patience, perfect patience is a salue, to heale all the smartful scourges of Fortune. But yet it is a vertue for cowards and crauens, not for valiant & venterous youth, whose minds (couragious minds) dare with the Gyants again in the Phlægræan fields, *Bellare cum dijs*. to threaten and pronounce wars against great Ioue, and all the other Gods: climbing vp the heauens, as did braue Bellerophon on winged Pegasus: and breaking the infernal gates of hel, bind tryple-headed Cerberus in chaines, as did Hercules in his labors of wonders, to appease the wrath of angry Iuno.

But why (Iacomin) ouercome with rage, like to blinde bayards doest thou braid ye glorious Sun: or with the witlesse Wolues seem to bark against the Moone: hope wel, & haue wel: intreat the gods (*Quid enim nisi vota supersunt?*) with prayers, to pacifie those Parents, whose bloudie broyles breede your

disaster disparagements: that in ioyes (for *Olim meminisse iuuabit*) abounding, your former penances in future memorie may support your pleasures with greater delights. But thine eyes, thy longing eyes may not view her beauteous eyes; nay, thine eares, thy wretched eares, now henceforth neuer shall againe receiue the melodious sounde of her sweete voyce: Ah wretch, ah wretch, of all others most miserable, confused, and accursed.

Hauing so saide, as he would haue giuen more scope to his complaint, he was by a seruant cald to conuerse with his Father: which made him suspect some farther mishap: either fearing the checke, or at least the reproofe for awaiting counterbuffes for his loue-sicke sweats.

But it was otherwise, for his Father Pierro (hauing not seene him many houres before) welcomming certaine friends of his, newly come to Palermo: caused young *Iacomin* to come in presence (who then for the absence of one, hated the presence of all) to keepe them conference, and beare them company.

Who (after imparted salutations) as from a mind ouercloide with cares, vttered laconicall answeres to all their vaine questioning *Items*, with no, and I; without any other circumstances. So that these new-come straungers could finde by suppose, that this faire yong-lings tender minde was benummed by some agonizing maladie.

Thus did these ciuil iarres, not only ruinate the Scicilian state, and authoritie of the Peeres (all which were left now to roaue at randome like a maisterlesse shippe without a Marryner, mongst the swallowing surges, either to sincke or swim) but also shake the healths and well-fares, both of these illustrous Families and their children.

Whereby may seeme as apparant as in a Christall glasse, what daungerous discommodities accompany ciuil warres, like daily seruitors. For these broyles in these Countries, made such a straunge metamorphosis, as that where Scicilia before was had in chiefe regard of her neighbour Countries,

for politicke and peaceful gouernment, now ruled by common Democracie, it was had in as great disgrace, and contemptible and dishonourable.

The crabbed clawes of Cancer, hath long detainde the course of our Load-starre, which now by the prescript rule of time, is entering Leo: which couragious signe, bringes our Louers some incouragement, to encounter Fortune face to face: and in despight of her power to worke their ioyes, by fearing no colours of disaster mishaps.

They on both winges erpected their safeguardes, to proceed through sounding a retreate to their Parents controuersies: but their enuious hatred was growne so rancke, that their maligne mindes woulde entertaine no perswasions to peace, but wholy imployed their humours how best to worke reuenge. Which young Iacomin pondring and considering with himselfe, thus began to expostulate.

And wil it be no otherwise (quoth hee) can Eagles thirst be pacified by nothing else but bloud? Can men alwaies lyke Lyons, skirmish, possest with the heate and warmth of raging and furious wrath? I see that old ages angers, represent Torches flames; which the longer they burne, the fiercer waxeth their fire. Is it méete for youth to be shut vp in a continuall Labyrinth of displeasant crosses, daily indaungered by the monstrous dispaire?

If Palermo (that was once accounted the glorious Scicilian Metropolis, shining in his ornaments like an illustrious Mycrocosmus) now being metamorphosed from the Pallace of peace, to the Tent of tumultuous warre; can yéeld no quiet, yet, yet what? (And there hauing pawsde, replide) yet may thy abiding in other Countries, afford such a sweete habitation, as neuer is likely to be enioyed in thy natiue home. Skilful Dedalus remaining in bondage vnder domyneering Minus, by Art framed winges to flie from seruitude; and so got freedome. And shall not Loue lend me Eagles winges to clasps (as did Ioues Armour-bearer, the beauteous Nymph Ganimede) my deare Katherina; and beare her a matchlesse pitch,

free from the frownes of her froward eyze and mine? *Cælum non animum mutant qui trans mare currunt*: If shee wil consent, wele trudge, and see Don Lorenzo, and the rest of our good friends in Spaine. And in this hastie resolue, with yuorie Penne on paper wrote as followeth to his lonely Katherina.

Iacomins perswasiue Letter vnto his inthralled Loue.

ALthough our eyes through disiunction of place, may not behold one anothers countenance; yet dooth the coniunction of my vnmoueable minde, cause mee to contemplate on our generall welfare. And though we dare not on pain of parents frowns, displeasures & rebukes (alreadie euen incurred) be once seen talkatiue, but alway toong-tied, yet hath Loue taught me a slight, with you to haue in secrecie some desired conference. Know then (my dearest *Katherina*) that my heart burthened with heauinesse, my minde ore-borne with melancholy, and my brest subued with passion, for our disquiets and life-sticking subiections: to auoid such slauish seruilitie, haue all within mee accorded to escape imprisonment: although they flie into straunge Countries, so that by the way they may enioy your company. *Iacomin* will to *Spaine* (*Katherina*) if your sweete selfe would bee copartner in his trauailes: and there, with his friends and yours, remaine, vntil he vnderstand that reconciled peace hath made a period to these common controuersies. I know (deare Loue) what sorrowes you sustaine for my sake, what heauie cares for my cause, to cure the which, you must practise with me to depart frō *Palermo*: For sweeter are the hony-sopps of content, than all the courtly iunckets and daintie cates, sauced with doubtfull & double cares. This if your loyall heart can fancie, no doubt but our happinesse in the end will be multiplied, and all our former mishaps abolished. Herein then delaie not, for nothing may so much breed our daunger: Else if you like not this motion

for feare of after-claps, I will not ſeeme to conſtraine your cowardiſe to the combat. No farewell *Katherina*, till death deſtroy my life, ſo I exſpect a ſpeedie anſwere.

Yours, or not his owne:
yong Iacomin.

Hauing written theſe fewe lines: he ſtood ſtudying how to haue them deliuered. He would not aduenture to truſt any of his Fathers family, for feare to haue his ſecrets reuealed: what ſhould he do? It were but madneſſe for him to caſt it ouer the wall; for her Father ſooner than his *Katherina*, might happe to take it vp.

Standing a while in a maze, hauing twice or thrice walked to and fro in his Chamber, heard at the ſtaire foote a poore woman begging an almes: to whom he went, and queſtioning with her of her parentage, vnderſtood that Fortune had plaid an aduerſe part, and bereft her, not only of her friendes, but bereaued her of all her earthly ſubſtance. The circumſtance of whoſe caſe, were too troubleſome to be rehearſed, and too tedious to be heard.

But her he thought the fitteſt bearer of his counſailes that the earth could yéelde: Wherefore giuing her Golde to make her gladſome; Woman (quoth hée) thy diſtreſſe hath bredde my good will thus much towardes thée, in that thy griefes haue made mée compaſſionate; hie thée now to the nexte Gate, and there craue their benenolence, and watch a time when conuenientlie thou canſt preſent this Paper cloſely to a young Gentlewoman there, whoſe voction towardes the poore is neuer wanting: Tell her, I commende mée heartily vnto her, and do intreate her to receiue on my behalfe this plaine Paſport, and thereto to returne a ſpeedie anſwere, by thée my vnſuſpected meſſenger. Be aduiſed in this enterpriſe, and thou ſhalt not depart vnrewarded.

The

The aged woman (whose siluer haires were tokens of experiēce taught by time, perceiuing a litle which way the wind blew, hoping it would turne to her aduantage) with a lowe curchie receiued the writ, (he telling her, how the message she went in, was to faire Katherina) promising she would be circumspect in euery respect to accomplish his desires. Wo so good woman (quoth he) and if her answere breed me any pleasure, thou shalt not remaine without profit. And so shee past toward Bartolos doore: where she had not long vsed her accustomed ceremonies, but that Katherina's presence presented it self before the womans eyes: of whom, she begged an alms, being by her demanded whence she came, and what benefites her earnest praiers had procured her: she mildly in humble maner answered. Vertuous and faire mistresse (quoth shee) amongst the commons my paines haue bene recompenced with slender profit: but the liberall hand of the gallant young Gentleman (your next neighbour) hath farre beyond any deserts of mine, made me prosperous with his bountie. Hath he so? (quoth Katherina) and for neighbourhods amitie, thou shalt not be sent hence comfortlesse. And then being about to open her purse, the woman reacht her Iacomins Letter, with these words.

Good mistresse, my silly selfe hath by him bene made so happy, as to be trusted with deliuering this message, before many of my betters; and I hope your gentle nature will with patience conceale my rude nurture. I promised, and in that I promised, I will performe my dutie what so ere betide. For I trust (and in that trust am throughly perswaded) that his noble heart herein towards you imparteth no harme. But how (replied the Princesse) couldst thou tell whether my selfe were the partie to whom he minded this message? I hope (mistresse) it is your selfe (said she) for my aged eyes obserue in you the phisognominate tokens that the Gentleman willed me to consider. And thou hast hit the marke (good woman answered the Princesse. And yet not got the game (good mistresse) quoth the woman againe, vntill you vouchsafe to returne an

answere.

anſwere. What ſhall not be awanting (ſaid Katherina) becauſe (I knowe) it will bee beſt welcome. Stay a while and I will in ſome ſoꝛt perfoꝛme the Gentlemans pleaſure. With that ſhe entred her cloſet: where hauing ouerread the Letter; after a ſhoꝛt ſtudie, ſhee returned in wꝛiting, this anſwering Appeale.

Katherina appealing to her Loue.

THe wandring Knight forſaking the *Carthaginian* coaſt, was cauſe of *Carthages* faire Queenes decay. *Hero* threw her ſelfe headlong into *Helleſpont* for *Leanders* loue, whom ſhe beheld dead, lying by the Riuers ſide. *Iphis* hanged her ſelfe, *Procris* ſlew her ſelfe, becauſe they were forſaken of their deareſt and beſt beloued friends. Then wende not away (my deare *Iacomin*) and leaue me in the iawes of diſpaire; leaſt that on my ſelfe I worke the like maſſacre with meete diſparagement. *Medea* hauing by powerfull ſpells, gotten *Iaſon* free libertie to gaine the *Colchian* golden fleece, beeing by him contemned, ſought reuenge by his children and fathers murthering. And *Scilla* (renowned *Niſus* daughter) preſenting to *Minos* her fathers purple haire, (which ſhe had cut off as her father ſlumbred) on poſſeſſion whereof, did fatally conſiſt the ſafeguard of his Crowne and Kingdome; being by *Minos* for loue, repaide with hate, grew frantick and deſperate. Then if you loue me, do not leaue me: ah, do not leaue me: for I will rather then be left behind thee, take warfare with thee. And becauſe we will freely paſſe watch and all vneſpied: I will prouide me ſuch apparell as did *Minerua*, when like an aged woman, ſhee would perſwade *Arachne* from preſumption. I am thine (ſweete heart) or not mine owne: whoſe onely life is maintained by thy loue: whoſe health is ſtrengthned by thy happineſſe: and eſtate conſiſting on all thy fortune. If the land haue thy ſweete ſelfe in hold, it alſo ſhall haue me: if the ſeas be thy habitation, the ſeas likewiſe ſhall ſerue for

my home: if you liue, I enioy life: and if you die, my heart dyeth also. Therefore I will not say farewell (though from the faire well of thy wel-fare, doth flowe all poore *Katherinas* happinesse) till death end my life-dayes, and leauing to liue, must leaue mortally to loue.

If not yours, no bodies.
Katherina.

Hauing framed this Appeale to her Loue, shee folded it closely vp: and comming to the old woman (who was busied in saying her Creede) told her she had framed an answere to the Gentleman; and (said she) for thy trustinesse, there (annointing her hand with the precious oyle of Angels) is somewhat for to helpe thy want: and take good heed safely to redeliuer backe this Letter. The poore woman humbly thanked her for her bountie, and stirring her aged stumps back againe toward Signeor Iacomins Pierro's doore, met gentle Iacomin, who awaighted her returne. To whom she imparted Katherinas courtesie extended towards her, deliuering him her answerable Letter: whose superscription when he had beheld: rauished with admirable conceit, he flung the poore woman some more crownes, and so she merily departed: blessing the houre, time, and place of her so lucky arriuall thither, happie for her owne behoofe, aduanced by the liberall gifts of these younglings.

Iacomin reading Katherinas crampled propositions, admiring at her feruent loue, and famous learning: (for she was as much addicted to the one, as adioyned in mind to the other) after some silent meditation, breathed forth these speeches.

Fire trieth gold, and I see that aduersitie can make best triall of friends. I am thine (saith she) and not mine owne; (My words of a louing heart!) and therefore if you loue me do not leaue me. No (Katherina) thy Iacomin lift not leaue thee, till life leaue him: for if he would, he need not to incurre (onely for thy sweete sake) all other his friends displeasures: which likewise thy louely selfe for his sake hath sustaind. Ah sacred Dei-

ties,

ties, the maintainers of Loues destinie: whose essence is immortall, and accidence fatall; be now propitious to our proceedings, aid our enterprise, and support vs against perills: then shall your Altars be couered all ouer with our gratefull offrings: and the sweetest perfumes of Myrrhe and Frankencense shall purifie your temples. Ah sacred Iuno, with thy power protect our pretences: and Hymen, lighten those lamps of thine, to consecrate our liues to Loues obeysance. Is not Loue the hand-maid of the immortall soule? the purified superficies of celestial motion, secretly inspired into the Cordials, the eyes prospectatiue contemplation of beauties Idæa? whereby the Creator is made to admire at the obiectiue creature? Is it not a vertue metaphisicall, containing the perfect substance, both of Art and nature? O diuine loue! and therefore diuine, because sent from aboue. O immortall beautie! and therefore immortall, because therein is insetled the summarie glory of the heauens. Damned then bee their raylings, and condemned their forgeries, that barke at Loue, calling it lustfull and intemperate: and title it vaine, wauering, and windie.

Can a celestiall vertue haue incontinencie? then what incontinencie is contained in Loue, whose vertue is celestiall? Can that effect proue inconstant that is decreed by the Deities? Then how can Loue become light and inconstant, which is the immutable and vnchaungeable decree of the immortall Deities? I speake not of fained loue, whose impression is not made perfect in the inmost roomes of the heart; but standing without such entring, is seated for a while on the outward eye-lids: whose societie is warie with a looke, and lost with a winke: whose appendix is lust, and inder leaudnesse. No, no, (quoth hee) such, all such doe I defie, not deifie: such doth my breast abhorre, and not vpholde; yea, such doth my very soule loathe, and neuer loue: because it is no loue. For euen as Ixion in stead of Iuno embraced a cloud, of which he begate monsters;

So they that followe that shadow of loue, in seale thereof (for want of infusee substance from aboue) perish with lustfull sin: whose contagion is shames nurse, and confusion the offspring. Here he breathed a while, and then thus proceeded. But whither away (*Iacomin*) that thou runnest so swift a pace in thy discourse? Thou canst sooner nomber the starres, then reckon the diuersities of loue. Some are Saturnists, and loue solitary conceits: Some are Martialists, and admire at the Tantaras of warres: Some Bacchinalls, and are wholly addicted to pamper their stomacks: Some Midas mates, that will haue all they touch to turne to Gold: Some are like Minerua's Owle, that delight to praise themselues, and disdaine others. And let them (said he) so wallow through and through in their humourous loues, guided onely by their sensuall appetites. Persuere thou in that heauenly affect, which through infused loyaltie thou hast delighted: continue that course, which is through inspiration in thee begun: whose perfection, not all the power of the earth can make imperfect: whose perdurance, no battle-axe of violent passion can infringe, nor the wide world by any meane disioyne the band thereof, nor diminish the vertue.

Hauing made a stoppe to his speech, he vsed endeuour for their departure: and hauing prouided a Barke, and Marriners to conduct the vessell through *Oceanus* watry regiment: giuing a watch-word at a time well appointed by the parties, for their conueyance aboorde, fardling such necessaries vp as were thought requisite, *Katherina* and himselfe at once were shipt: and the Marriners launcht forth into the deepe.

I should haue giuen you (kind Gentles) to vnderstand, that at the very instant, that the poore woman (as is before recited) was their vnsuspected messenger, Virgo was predominant: whose vertue containd betwixt these Louers such authoritie, as that neither thought of perillous dangers to come, nor the plagues (if their drifts had bene espied) then present, could confront them, or reuoke them from their enterprise. So were their thoughts connected in chaste resolue, and their

brests

byrdes coupled in firme fortitude.

Now are you to conſider, how Libra toke his raigne, as they entred the ballanced barke: and was to them during the time that they remained vnder his dominion) both luckie and gladſome.

For now the ſailes were ſpread in quiet: whileſt a pleaſant calme made the billowes ſtill milde, and gentle: the Seaſurges were depreſt, not once ſtriuing to beate againſt th'oppoſite veſſell: Neptune was banqueting with Amphitrite and Trytons trumpe ſummond the water-Nimphes, the Syrenes, and Doris, and her darlings, and al the Ocean Deities, to appeare vnder their Commmaunders tryple Scepter: to reuell, and ride on Dolphins, accompanying him at his royall Court, whoſe arriuall was there awaighted by the demie Gods of the lakes and riuers. The heauens were cleare, and the ſkie as brightſome to behold, as the përeleſſe ſhells on the Libian ſhore. So that the Marryners paſt ken of the land, crying aloft boone fortune, and bidding Iacomin and Catherina be of good cheere; roundly rung out this Rowly by.

The Marryners Song.

Braue luſtie laddes, hoyſe vp the Sayles,
A gallant gale blowes at the Poope:
Nere feare you ſtormes till Anchor failes,
And windes and waues euen force vs loope.
Now Eaſt, North-eaſt: from Helme nere ſturre a,
Good cheere my hearts: why there a (boy) there a.

Bright ſhines the Sunne, cleare are the skies,
Faire is the weather, calme the winde:
No ſwallowing waues do ſurge or riſe,
Our maſt and tacklings ſtand in binde.
By Eaſt, North-eaſt: from Helme nere ſtirre a:
Be blithe my hearts; why there a (boy) there a.

Then maiſters come, and maiſters mate,
Make merrie with good Biske and Beere:
And who ſo doth his liquor hate,
Shall rue the roaſt whileſt he reſts heere.
Keepe Eaſt, &c.

Let euery man a Caroll ſing,
In *Eolus* and *Neptunes* praiſe:
The one, to cauſe doth tempeſts ſwing,
The other doth the flouds appeaſe.
Hold Eaſt, &c.

Sit on the Deck, and view th' Seas;
See how the Sea-nimphes ſwiftly ſwimme;
Looke where the Fiſhes ſporte with eaſe;
And Maire-maides their faire traces kimme.
Goe Eaſt, &c.

As loud as *Tritons* Trumpe doth ſound,
(Whoſe voice is heard by waters all,
And by grim *Pluto* neath the ground)
Rowe well yee Marriners, now call.
So, Eaſt, North-eaſt; from helme nere ſtirre a;
Good cheere my hearts; why, there a (boy) there a.
--- Dum vela ſecundat, ---
Parat Fortuna procellas.

Thus they made merrily for Spaine, croſt with no miſfortune; till Scorpio (ſtretching forth his fierie clees) ſeemed to ſtoppe the peaceable courſe of our Lead-ſtarre: enforcing it to take his abode in the other Equinoctiall point, quite oppoſite to that pleaſant place, where it was reſplendant at the beginning of the Spring. And hating to behold it in beautie, ſeemes violently to driue it thence, farther forth vnto Sagitarie; as if the monſter ment by ſome meteor or ecliptick cloude to haue it terrified, or at the leaſt ſhadowed.

Threatning it to haue winter-like weather, (in stead of a faire harueſt ſeaſon) and to be moleſted in ſome reſpects with foggy incloſures, and bitter cold, mixed with very cold and windie moiſtures. What need I vſe ambages? the ſequell of our Louers euents will ſhewe, how there was ſome ſigne of chaungeable weather.

For they had not ſailed three dayes from Palermo, but that ſome Gallies appertaining to certain Pyrates, that were whilome competitors in the conſpiracie and rebellion (before in the beginning mentioned) gainſt the King of Tuniſe, had eſpied them ſcowting: and being led with hope of getting ſome purchaſe or pettie prize, made haſtily towards them. Whom when the Barkſmen had deſcried, not able (by reaſon of the calme) to make away from them, miſtruſting they ſhould be ſet on, prouided their ſhot in readineſſe, as reſolued to vſe their beſt endeuors to ſaue their own. Some had the Gallies ouertane them, and fiercely chaſed them: that the Barke at laſt was ſtaied vp, and by them being boorded, yet valiantly reſiſted with hardie fight. Eſpecially Iacomin, who (euen deſperate, careleſſe whether he liued or died, ſo that his Katherina might be ſaued harmleſſe) fought againſt the enemie with hartie courage, and valiantly (defending the diſtreſſed veſſell) laid on loade round about him: till that he was ſore wounded, through encountring ſo many at their firſt entrances. At laſt through much bleeding he became faint: and then the pyrates (driuing the wearied and maimed Marriners to corners) rifeled the Barke: And hauing found Katherina in the cabin (as they were ſearching for wealth) euen all amort and woe begone, for this extreame miſfortune; hauing neither remorſe of her laments, nor reſpect of her vowes, nor pittie of her plaints, nor any compaſſion of her praiers, pluckt her forth the cabin, carrying her perforce, conueyed her into their Gallies: And thus hauing taken all that was worth bearing away, turned towards Tuniſe.

Iacomin with wofull eyes (ſcarce able through faintneſſe to lift vp his head) beholding his Katherina violently taken

from

from him, bert ſo much in minde, as did Piramus (when hée ſawe a part of Thisbes kertle, torne by the gripes of a grædie Beare) determined at that preſent (had he not bene preuented) with mortall blade to end his miſeries. But uſing patience perforce, through the Marriners helping meanes, as the winde and tide would afford, made after their enemies: hoping that way, ſoner then on any other coaſt, to come a ſhore, and obtaine ſuccour.

Was not this a ſhaking tempeſt (trowe yée) to bréed anew their torments? It was Scorpio that incenſed theſe Roners to fiercenelle, but Sagitarius that made them ſo mightie and magnificent in their attempts. Which now hauing gotten the ſpoiles, wende with as great triumph towards Tuniſe (though they had bene rebells) with beautious Katherina; as did Paris with the Grecian Dame, towards Troy. For theſe Pyrates hopes were laid (as you ſhall heare) on this foundation.

The luſtie Tuniſian Prince, being made frolicke (euer ſithence the time that the two Scicilian families wrought meanes to beate downe his enemies) by continued peace, was become as wanton and effeminate, as Sardanapalus: placing all his felicitie in gallant womens beautie. And becauſe he would not lacke what his luſtfull minde beſt liked: at one end of the Citie (where he held his royall Court, had he built a ſtately Caſtle: where whoſe walls were of perdurable bricke, and couerings braſſe, verie fairely flouriſht with carued Images on the outmoſt lymites. But the artificiall diuiſions and partitions, with glorious Galleries, and decked Chambers within, were by the ſkill of a cunning hand, made ſuperexcellent. All the walls were garniſhed with cloath of Arras, curiouſly wrought with rich knots of Gold, and ſpangled ouer with Carbuncles, Rubies, and precious Pearles: glezed in and out with ſingular ſhadowes and pictures, paſſing curiouſly proportioned. There alſo had Art with néedle-worke portraied the Hiſtories of the Gods: Iupiter counterfeiting the ſhape of Amphitrio, to gaine the loue of Alcmena; like a

Swan,

Swan, to winne Læda; like a golden Showre, to gaine Danae; and like a Bull, bearing on his backe Paſyphae. There was portrayed Apollo, purſuing with ſpeedy pace the Nymph Daphne: Luna ſhooting forth her hornes, to imbrace Endimion drowſily ſlumbring: Diana and her ſpotleſſe darlings bathing in the brooke, holding in their hands Cypreſſe boughes, to ſhadow their beauties from the Sun-beames, ouer-pried by the gazing Forreſter Actæon, whom ſhe chaunged by (let flying at him a ſhaft) into a horned Harte. There might you haue ſeene a woman wooing a man (viz.) Venus courting Adonis: Eccho following Narciſſus: and Narciſſus ſeeming to follow his owne ſhadowe in the brooke. There was horned Pan portraied, intreating Sirinx: whom at once he beheld metamorphoſed into an Oaten Reede. There was ſtarr-eyed Poliphemus, paſſionate through loue of the Nymph Galathea. There was Orpheus ſeene playing (on his Tree-and-ſtone-moving Harpe) at the gates of Limbo, to bring backe his loſt Euricide. There Pluto, riding on a Coach of Ebonie, lying in ambuſh to ſteale away Proſerpina gathering flowers, was with his blacke Lordes fitly deciphered. And not onely theſe of the Goddes, but alſo an infinit number of amorous counterfeits of loue-ſicke men. There was imblazoned the Citie of Troy, and the glorious Pallaces of king Pryam: with all his valiant ſons and daughters. There was Paris portraid, marching in pomp, with a troupe of gallants attending, through Troy, leading towards Ilium, the peerleſſe Dame of Greece, hand in hand: whileſt the princely Prophoteſſe Caſſandra, with hands raiſde to heauen, and haire hanging downe ouer her ſhoulders, cried out, *Graia iuuenco venit, &c.*

Such as theſe ſeemed common in that bowerly Paradiſe: for euery Chamber ſeemed a mirrour of delight. But that glorious edifice, which exceeded all the reſt, was a Garret, which the king himſelfe commonly at his pleaſure would make his reſting Pauilion. The ſide walles were ouerlaide with rich cloth of golo, ouer-diapred with admirable bright Margarites, and glorious Pirops: that in the night lightned with ſplendor the whole Chamber ouer with ſuch cleare ſhine, as in continuance it ſeemed, the burniſht Sunne neuer was ſaine in the oc-

dent. The vaulted couering was ſhadowed with a gorgious Canapie, branched about with Angelicall features and gliſtering flowers.

In the midſt (directly vnder the Canapie) was placed a Chaire, imboſt with ſilke, and coſtly knobbes of gold, ſo highly lifted as a ſtately Throne. Ouer the head thereof, araied in liuely colours, was a Parliament of the Gods depainted, with gorgious roabes: Aboue all the troupe of which glorious Synode, was portrayd a beauteous ſeate, whereon ſate Cupid and his Loue ouerlooking them all, and treading on great Ioue and Iunos Dyadems. Cupid held in his hand a faire Scepter, wherewith (it ſeemed) he beckened to all the reſt, as if he commaunded them: and his Loues browes were garniſht with a tryple Crowne, whereon Fortune laie figured bound in Fetters, and her whéele ſhiuered in peeces: On his Scepter was drawne in golden Letters this Poeſie, *Amor imperat aſtris*: On her Crowne was this Motto, *Sic forma, Dijs*, fairly ingrauen. The frames of the faire windowes made all with Adamantine ſtone and Chriſtall, beautified throughout with blazures of honourable Armes, would oppoſe Apelles pencyll to portraie, much more my pen: for all was as admirable, as the Pallace of the radiant Sunne: deſcribing the which, as Ouid did conclude the one, ſo may I likewiſe end the other (leauing the reſt to your coniectures) and ſay, *Artificem ſuperabat opus.*

This ſo glorious Caſtle, ſupplied the place of an Academy, for beauteous dames: for therein were incloſed the choice dainties of the Country, for the kings onely taſte. They had all eaſe enough, but little libertie: fed and feaſted ſumptuouſly, but were neuer ſuffered to walke without dores: euery one had a ſeuerall Chamber for her owne commoditie, but could welcome none but the king their Louer: many wiſht (it may be) to haue chaunge of meates beyond commons: yet ſcarce any durſt on deaths penaltie let enter other diſhe, than ſuch as with allowance came from their Liege. So that, theſe ſweetes were groſt, with ſome ſowres: theſe dainties were conſtrainde from chaunge of delicates, and all remained mewed for one mans diet. So that their happineſſe ſeemed not much more pleaſant, than do their pleaſures, that are impriſoned in courtly

Towers,

Towers, or mannacled with golden Fetters, or drinke Cyrcen drugges in a guilted Cup, &c.

This while (courteous Reader) had our Load-ſtarre eſcaped with much ado the fierce Sagitarie, (though somewhat to the annoyance of his ſuſcepted courſe) and had entred in the vineteene degrée of Capricornus, which ſigne is very predominant over al thoſe horned heads that ſimply ſing Tuckoe. At whoſe ſhaggie forme, it halfe ſeemd afraid, though his milde (which with him was not vſuall) aſpect now, did import, that for a ſeaſon he had ſhaken off his natural qualitie, as vnaccuſtomed to any patience. For from his Goatiſh beard, in his rage would he ſhake, not only extreame winterly ſhowres; but alſo heart-cutting froſts and tempeſts; as that Sol himſelfe is inforced for auoydance of his boyſterous ſtormings, to forſake that houſe with haſte (ſtanding on his fartheſt limit in the South) and to drawe for his better quiet, neare vnto our clymate: yet notwithſtanding he now ſeemed milde and vnwilde, like comfortable Zephirus. Whether it were (alſo) for pretence of ſome miſhap to happen to our Load-ſtarre, or whether to ſhewe ſigne of a proſperous voyage, (it is farther to be doubted) but his moyſtned hoarie haire now diſtild faire dropping deawes: (as the Crocadile sheads teares) and it may be, it was ſigne of ſome lamentable waylings. But to haue all reſolued, I wil ſearch through the whole progreſſe of our Load-ſtarre, and what I finde hapning, ſhall be vnfolded accordingly.

Now had the Pyrates (ſetting their Gallies to ride ſafely by caſting Anchor within the harbour) brought Katherina on ſhoare: and intending to preſent her to the king, thereby to get pardon for their miſdemeanours forepaſt, ſpake her fairely, willing her to be frolicke. And to depreſſe her ſorrowes made merrie at an Inne, taking wholeſome carowſes both of Béere and Wine, in quaffing bowles: yet could not their liquour of life ingender any ſolace in ſubiected Katherina. Yet at laſt was ſhe brought to the court, and preſented before the wantõ Prince: whoſe hart was ſtraight ſet on fire by the luſtres (though now dimd with watry deawes) that ſparkeled from her eyes: that the Pyrates were not only forgiuen their amiſſe, but alſo were recompenced with royall rewards. So that they accounted the time and houre moſt lucky and fortunate, when

their eyes held in ken, and their hands beganne to incounter with those that had the carriage of such a worthie prize.

The king had great compassion on the discomfort of his newe Saint, vnto whose shrine he offered his perswasiue Orison.

Beauteous (quoth he) clowdie lookes (the messengers of careful mindes) are for rusticke Clownes of the Countrey, not companions for the lookes of courtly Dames. Be blithe (beauteous) be blithe: bannish melancholy from thy delicate breast: let mirth hold holiday in thy cheekes, and let pinching melancholy be driuen vnto extreame exile: Be thy minde iocund, thine heart frolicke, and thy thoughts light. Where as before thou wert Chaunces bondslaue, now shalt thou raigne in the happie fauour of a King: whose smiles shal support thee, whose lookes shall comfort thee, and sweete words delight thee. Thou shalt haue pleasure, without penance: thou shalt reioyce, without any annoyance: and in thine owne handes holde sweete content, voide of all crossing and discontenting greeuances.

Whilest thine yeares are tender, thy selfe youthful, and thy face flourishing with fragrant feature, follow the ioyes, that belong vnto thy yeares: seeke the pleasures, that Nature hath allowed thine youth to possesse: and be partaker of these delightes, as are comparable to thy springing beautie. Let the auucient (whose haires old age hath made frostie, in whose browes time hath painted furrowes, and whose backes the waightes of many colde winters haue bowde) seeme chollericke, because they are crustie: and disconsolate, because their blouds are become colde, their limmes weake and chillie. Be bliue and wanton (Girle) for seuen yeares longer liues a merrie minde, than a heauie heart. Let thine Alabaster breast be a Bower, for Venus Doues, that Cupid attending them, may with disport rent thine Aperne-strings.

What sweeter conceyt, what fitter humour, what prittier dispose, than for youth to be lustie, and liuely to entertaine and welcome loue? Then cleare (sweete beautie) the Christal couerture of thy eclipsed eyes; and thou shalt be brought into a bower, which to thy sight shall seeme no lesse pleasaunt, than portly: where thou shalt beholde seates, that euen exceed Ioues siluer foote-stoole;

and

and treade in walkes, that in compare blemiſh not a little the milke-white way.

There ſhall diuers braue Dames and faire Damzels (whoſe features daſhe with diſgrace the beauteous Goddeſſes that ſtrcue before Paris for the golden Ball) ſhal bidde thée welcome with kinde ſalutes. The Girles, that ſhall awayt on thée (attendant both at becke and call) ſhall for gracious aſpect, driue coy Campaſpe out of countenance. The meate which thou ſhalt taſte, ſhall farre ſurpaſſe the daintios that were ſerued before Damocles: or ſet before the cruel Belides, or preſented euen to the very lippes of hungrie Tantalus. Thy drinke ſhal be ſwéeter than the iuice of thoſe precious Apples that growe in the Gardens of the Heſperides: and reſt more licorice in the receptacles, than the life-lengthning Nectar and Ambroſia. The mirth, which the curious and well ſtroken Inſtruments ſhall yéelde forth to glad thy perſine minde, ſhall be as delightſome as the ſoundes of Apollos Lute, or as the tunes of the Heliconides. The bedde whereon thou at thine owne pleaſure ſhalt take reſt, ſhal be more ſoft then Downe, and more glorious than that Cubile where angrie Vulcan inſnared amorous Mars, and his amiable Venus: the whole Synode of the Gods to their ſhame beholding both the louely captiues.

All this receiue as truth (faire creature) for thine eyes & eares, and all thine other indued ſences, ſhal witneſſe it for truth. Onely would I wiſh thée, be merry; caſt away all actoying care; loke liuely and louely; and thou ſhalt be as fortunate as Pirrha, Deucalions Phéere: and liue as auncient as Sibilla, Apollos Loue.

There he made a period to his oblatiue Antheme, the whole ſumme whereof, ſéemed as acceptable to woful Katherinas eares, as the talke of Will Summers, to a minde male-content; or the Tales of Mother Redde-cappe, to an heart-ſicke Patient; or Scoggins Jeſts related to one meditating on the ſeuen Sobbes of a ſorrowful Soule.

This Oblation béeing offered, hée calls for a ſiluer Bowle of Muſcadine: which béeing brought him, hée vttered this ſalute.

Now (beauteous) bannish these deadly dumpes, the king himselfe deignes to salute thée with the pure liquor of the Grape: héere's a health to thée (and therewithal dranke a heartie draught) to driue off thy agonies: Holde, take; I haue taken halfe, and therefore do me right, and drinke vp the remnant.

Katherina wiping her wayling eyes, as hauing tane some smal heart-agrace, framed modestly this reply. Although (egregious Prince) it fits not Fortunes meacocks, to séem courtly with kings; nor Captiues, to cry checkmate with their keepers: yet sith your highnesse is so graciously bent towarde the welfare of me worthlesse and vnworthie wretch, I wil not deny to pledge your highnesse. And hauing so saide, toke a good wholesome draught of the Wine.

The king then (pleasantly conceyted) asked her what bedfellow she would desire to haue? And she answered, she desired such a one, as would for dishonour (like Lybidinous Tereus) seeke neyther to defile her, nor like a lewde Priapus to defame her: For it is better be kild than liue with crackt credit.

Whose so chaste answere, gaue a memorandum to the wanton demaunders meaning: and yet because he would not séeme to be rubd on the gall, bolted forth this insinuation.

But yet (beauteous) quoth he, if a louely wight would beare you company in bed, I déeme you not so disdainful, as to depel him with deniall: Why, and it please your royaltie (said she) vnbidden guests are neuer best welcome at a banquet; neither vnto a woman is acceptable any vnknowne bedfellowe.

Which dry buffet made him euen dumbe; for shame would not suffer him to reueale his owne lauishnesse, and therefore with the Lapwing, he thus cried farre from his neast.

Wel (prettie peate) quoth he, thy mind as yet disagreeth within it selfe, because it is not partaker of any pleasant good. To change which appalling and oppressing propertie, thou shalt be conducted to that place of pleasure, whence doth remaine exilde all melancholy passions. I cannot imagine thée greater good, neither wil I bow thée a lesse commoditie. And so prouided attendants to conduct Katherina to the Castle.

As the glorious Sunne beganne to drench his fire-breathing

Steeds

steeds in the colde Ocean, and the gladsome daylight was shadowed by the nights gloomy clouds: Iacomin(almost made deaths Captiue through weakenesse) with his other sickly Companions, had gotten land, euen on the shoare of this same Cittie,where Katherina was brought for a present to the Prince. And hauing obtained lodging for himselfe and the rest of his heartiesse followers, was taken in cure by a cunning Surgian: all the company at the Inne (where he laie) bewayling the heartlesse downefal and distresse of so faire a person.

Katherina in the meane time being come to the Castle, beholding it without,somewhat wondred: but when she beheld within the grelles and steppes guiding them vnto seueral Inclosures (whose imblazures were no lesse resplendent, than the glorious Iasper, or a multitude of goodly Emeraldes) shée was ouercome with incredible admiration.Some salutes being imparted towards her by many of the Dames there resident: she was placed by those of the Kings Guard (according to his Maiesties commaund) in a most prettie Closette, all about garnished with flowers so liuely portrayed, as that Arte seemed to goe beyonde Nature in her workes: For there were Roses so depaynted and framed, as if they were but then plucked and brought from the Garden: bearing so varnished a die, as did Zeuxes Artificiall Grapes, which the Byrdes beguilde, did often pricke at with reaching beakes.

There was a square Table, by the nimble Seruitors straight couered ouer with delicious dainties: To eate whereof Katherina was inuited,both by some Damzels, that at poynt-deuise awaited on her: and intreated by the other Dames, that welcommed her, as best allowed for that purpose.

Little was it, that Katherina tasted; lesse, that her passionate stomacke digested: and least of all, that her greeued minde delighted. Only her wandring eyes euen feede on diuers sightes, so farre forth, that they seemed neuer satisfied sufficiently.

As shée satte at meate, shée beide in ken, portrayed with a most perfect plotforme in cloath of Arras, the proportion of the famous Cittie Athens: to haue preheminence whereof, Minerua accompanied with all the Muses (whose formes were rarely

polliſht, holding in theyr handes diuers Inſtruments, but Minerua bearing a Booke) helde a controuerſie with Neptune (who helde in her hand a threefolde Mace) and all his Demie Gods.

In the middeſt of which contention, there ſeemed to appeare vnto them an admirable water-Nymph, euen faire Thetis: whoſe admyrable lookes (lyke the Sunnes auſters) ſo pierceſt Neptunes cordyalls, that to winne fauour, hee graunted to yeelde vp the dominion of all his lande-Citties vnto the handes of the contending Goddeſſe.

Taking hold on whoſe promiſe, Minerua for him wonne the Nymph, and gaind the free gouernment of Athens. Vnderneath that Portrayture was ſet this Poeſie: *Arma quæ violant, vincunt amores.*

What Table-talke the wanton Wagtailes (that were her copeſmates) to increaſe merriment, and decreaſe melancholy, for recreation their mindes then vſed, it ſkilles not to repeate: and therefore ſhal be omitted, to auoyd troubleſome prolixitie.

For no man is ſo dunſticall, that cannot coniecture follie in the ſmiles, and vanitie in the ſpeeches, of ſuche vyle Huſwiues.

The Table taken vp, they walked a while to behold the varietie of Arts ornaments, ſpred round about this metropolitane houſe.

And when Katherina had throughly viewde and reviewde all, ſhee ſette downe her cenſure for a Principle, that *Omnia vanitas.*

When time gaue Morpheus libertie, with his inchaunting notes, to dedull mens vigilant ſences, ſummoning all humane bodies to recreating reſt: (the ſkie being maſkt with a duſkie vaile, and onely made brightſome by the glimmering appearaunce of ſome ſet Starres) Katherina, by the company being brought againe vnto her ſetteled Chamber, (the place that was appoynted her to ſolace in) all bidding her good night, and the Keeper locking faſt the Chamber doore (as he commonly vſed and was accuſtomed euerye Night, to ſhut, locke, and bolte faſte the reſte) in place of ſlumbering, ſhee

wart

waxed againe sorrowfull: in stead (on that sumptuous bed) to take quiet, she stood at the windowe with eyes most carefull: in place of swéete content, entertaining within her breast sharpe discontent: reckoning all proffered pleasure, as perill: all dilicates, but dregges: all courting, but counterfeit: and all the pleasant Wyands, but plaine vanitie. And from the aboundance of striuing thoughts, her voyce (the mindes enterpreter) vttered this Homilie.

Is it worthy the title of beautie, or blemish, to haue the body purpled, and the soule polluted? The Serpent (that in Paradice beguilde Eua) knew not how to entice her to eate the forbidden Apple, but by bidding her behold the beautie thereof, (for the rinde seemed swéete, and the taste to see the coare, bred a sowre infection) whose wittinesse ouerwinning their wits to agrée vnto that pleasure, procured an vnrecitable punishment. The King (Katherina) hath placed thee in a semblable delightsome Eden, promising thee pleasure, without paine: mirth, without moane: ioy, without annoy: solace without sorrow: and all delight, without any dolours: whose allurements, if thou reiect not: whose blandishments, if thou banne not: and temptations, if thou temperate not: thy mind will be blemished, thy conscience stained, thy thoughts polluted, and thy heart infested.

What is it to view the glorious architecture of this depainted house? but (as it were) to looke on the Apple with Eua? And what will it be to taste the pleasures that this place presents, but euen to swallowe morsells of procuring penaltie with Eua? So that as that on the one side, so this on the other, imparts a mappe of horred miserie.

But more literately to define, what is this pollished place, but (like a painted Sepulchre) an habitation for rotten bones? What are these pretie couerings, but representments of shadowed euills? what are these drawne flowers, but species of follies? these pictures, but the genus of vices? these golden spangling knobs, but the accident of il happes? to conclude, what is the cloath of Arras and all, but euen the proprium of all perills, the subiect of all pollutions, and the continent of all calamities?

Some Humerists in their Similies, compare women to Syrens:

rens: their faces to the fauor of Meduſa: their ſpeeches to the laughtures of Hyena: and their wailings to Crocadiles teares. All which ſlaunderous compares, are to be obiected to their Authors enuie, not to womens deſerts: that (poore ſoules, being weaker veſſels) are borne by the prouocations of men, vnto a thouſand miſchiefes. Though Medea were a ſorcereſſe, yet could not her drugs (though mightie to worke miraculous metamorphoſes) conſtraine men to keepe their affections within the liſts of continencie. For in fierceneſſe, they exceed the angry Tyger: in wilineſſe, equallize the ſubtill Fox: in wantonneſſe, accompany the toyiſh Ape: in luſt and leaudneſſe, ſurpaſſe the libidynous Goate: in cruelltie, goe beyond the rauenous Wolfe; and in anger, wax more wrathfull than the roaring Lyon: and onely through them, are women brought to wretchednelſe.

Now doth the proſpective of this contemplation preſent before my thoughts, a double genus contained mongſt men (viz.) a good and bad. On the one ſide ſtands (and then ſhaking her head, ſhee fetcht a grieuous ſigh) my deare, ah! (and then groand) my dearelt loue and life, eſtraunged Iacomin. On the other ſide ſits the wanton King (ah! that theſe ſhould ſeeme to protect and gouerne others, that cannot direct nor guide themſelues) who ſeeketh the ſpoile of my chaſtitie. The one haue the vniuſt Deities throwne downe to diſtreſſe, the other haue they extold with partiall dignitie. The one was alway the Diſciple of Vertue: the other remaines a ſeruitor vnto vice. The one directed and obedient to diuine loue, the other ſubiected and attendant on diuelliſh luſt. And yet are they both men: and yet the one liues orderly like a reaſonable creature: and the other without good order, euen like a *brutum quoddam*.

Ah! now I ſee that the blinde Goddeſſe (whom men commonly call Fortune) holdeth highelt dominion on the earth (whoſe partiall hand (through her buzzardly blindneſſe) deales gifts to the vndeſerued, and beſtowes ſmall benefites on good deſerts) elſe am I ſurely perſwaded, the vertuous ſhould neuer be ſo continually croſſed, and the vicious ſo pleaſantly and maieſtically ſupported.

Shall the faithfull and honeſt wight be thruſt on thornes

of

of tribulations? and ſhall diſhoneſt and leaud veneriks tread on Roſes? Shall the good eate Cole-worts with the Cynicke? and the badde feed on dainties with the Courtier? Are the one conſtrained to drinke the Wormc-wood water, and the other ſuffered freely to carowſe bowles of Wine? Ah heauens! Ah Deities!

What is the earth then, but the vpholder of iniquitie, and deſtroyer of iuſtice? And how may that be, when the Gods theron haue conſtituted mortall members, (till they are by death all called thence) with vprightneſſe to remaine? and ſpend their mortallitie with ſuch Angelicall integritie, as that when their liues leaue the earth, they may be immortalized in the glorious heauens? Ah how blinde is the earth, that can be content to be mapt with the baile of Vanitie? Vertue bandieth daily againſt Vice, but Vice is had in ſuch regard, as though the mightineſſe of thoſe vile multitudes (that Champion-like braue it, maugre Vertues worthy martialiſts, whoſe honours haue beene atchieued by ſheading and ſuſtaining the loſſe of their liuely blood) that ſeeme to ſauegard that deceitfull Strumpet: the world is ledde captiue, to bee obſeruant to all moſt wretched and villainous miſdemeanours.

And therefore, by how much the company of Vertues Souldiers are the ſcarcer, by ſo much more worthy are their famous Victories to bee regiſtred in the Records of eternall Remembrance.

The renowned Virginius of Rome, rather reſpected his daughters virgin-like martyring death, than to ſaue her life, to liue in leaudneſſe with diſhonour.

Chaſte Lucrece grieuing at her violent rape, to eſchew the diſgrace of her inforced offence, would by no meanes be perſwaded to liue, but cut off her dayes (to auoyd diſcredit) with a deadly knife. Daphne the Nymph, to ſaue her honeſtie, wiſhed rather to remaine for euer in the Barke of a Bay-tree: than for leaudneſſe to bee made a Beare, as was the Trull that afterwarde beeing in daunger (whileſt ſhee wandred in the woods with Lycaon, Actæon, Priapus, and ſuch leaud ones, like a beaſt) to be ſlaine by the ſhaft of her owne ſonne: was by Iu-

piter taken vp in a cloude, and made the Starre Vrſa *Maior*, and her ſonne, Vrſa *Minor*. Biblis lamenting her miſdemeanour with continuall and vncеſſant teares, neuer remitted her heart from ſighes, and her breaſt from ſwelling ſobbes, nor her minde from wofull thoughts, vntill ſhee became euen a watrie Fountaine.

Haſt thou read all theſe (Katherina) or at leaſtwiſe heard theſe and many more? and yet doeſt thou refraine to follow any of their famous examples: Wilt thou be content to a be Kings Concubine, and ſpot thy ſoule with ſinnes (that is new as white as the driuen Snowe) as blacke and vgly as pitch? Be mindfull (vile caitiffe) of thy birth: the ſincеritie of thy parents, and vertues of thy friends: and wilt thou then become the onely blemiſh of thy kinred through vile folly?

Then ſhe raged, and thus abandoned her ill haps. Auaunt (quoth ſhe) you infernall Furies, and helliſh hagges, that tempt a wofull Soule after the ſufferance of diſanulling miſeries, to taſte of ſugred miſchiefes. Why ſeeke you to enſnare me with your poyſoning baites, or guilded hookes? I am not yet prouided for the draught of your perditious nettes. My good Genius guide mée in theſe extreames, and helpe to vnloſe me from their entangling ſnares: for if I rightly conſider mine owne cauſe, I was neuer in ſuch daungerous caſe. I am ſhut vp in a glorious priſon, to ſerue ſhrine like a Jaile-whelpe: and there is no man that friends mée ſo much, as in my behalfe to ſet in baile, to free me from this ſeruitude. But my noble minde (that tooke life from the loines of Princes) will neuer (I hope) debaſe it ſelfe ſo lowe, as to yeeld it ſelfe a ſeruile bondſlaue to the greateſt Monarch in the world, to ſerue his luſt.

How are all comforts exilde (Katherina) from this Cabine? The ſpangled imblazures gliſter like Silkwormes in the darke, as if they meant to ſporte thine eyes with ſparklings, as full of faireneſſe, as the purple-coloured Topace. But by theſe art thou driuen to behold thine owne ruth: looke on the Starres, and contemplate with the Mone-ſhine, (both which ſhut forth their raies againſt the Glaſſe-windowes) and in their glory ſee thine owne griefe: in their feature, thy deformitie: in their ſpeculation, the re-

ſpect

spect of thy estimation, which not long sithence seemed as glorious, as their radiant graces. Better had it bene, thou hadst with the setting Sunne, bene drenched in the Ocean deepes, than followe thy is course to thy confusion. Worthier of renowne mightst thou haue bene reckoned, by the merciless blades of the butcherly Pyrates to haue lost thy life, than thus to lose the libertie of thy chast living. Better to haue endured the outragious rebukes of thine angry Parents at Palermo, then here to be banqueted in a straunge land, with infecting and sinne-saluing blandishments. O times! O dayes! O intemperable manners! O times, of vicious living! O dayes, of vertuous abolishing! O intemperate manners, of abhominations engendring! The first to be hated, the other to be reiected: and the third to be annihilated.

Ah wretched Katherina! distressed Katherina! molested and amazed Katherina! Thou escapest all the Monsters on Seas, and yet wert made a spoile vnto men: and by them, art made a pray for a cursed humane monster: as mightie as the Dragon that was to deuoure Andromeda, whom stout Theseus rescued: but there is no Theseus to rescue thée from expected scath. Couldest thou frame such a webbe for resistance as did the constant Dame of Ithica, the good Penelope; or inuent such a clewe to bring thée out of this Labezinth, as did Ariadne; then, ah! then, couldest thou hope to auoyd this daunger, and be requited of all dammage.

And yet dispaire not (Katherina) in these extreames: Daienera found a shert, to wreake her wrongs on Hercules: Medea a Garland of poysoning flowers, to reuenge her quietly on faithlesse Iason: and the Gods may grace thée with the gift of some drift inuented, to stoppe the lustfull pretence of this leacherous Tunisian.

Do not endure (O sacred Iuno) a modest maiden (that hath vowed vnto her Phœre the obseruance of nuptiall rights) to be defilde; rather giue her courage to cut her breast (like the Carthaginian Dido) and end her life with chaste desire, than liue to be polluted, by the embracings of beastly lust.

Which hauing said, she fell flat on the floore, with her face towards the ground: and with heartie compunction of a passionate soule, prayed and called on all the blessed and deified powers of the

Olympicke Regions, to be propitious vnto her plaints, and by one good meane or other, in ſome good time to end her woes.

With theſe diſquiet motions (oh that any modeſt maiden ſhould haue ſuch cauſe of diſquiet) ſpent ſhe the long and wearie winters night, till Aurora opened her purple doores in the Eaſt, ſtrewing the places (there about her dwelling) with faire coloured Roſes, and ſweete Violets. About which time, her eyes dulled with heauineſſe, began to incloſe, as if then they would not ſeeme to behold the glorious ariſing of Phœbus raies: nor ſée his horſes breathe from their noſthrills flakes and fierce flames on the hugie mountaines: for the Chamber windowes lay directly by South-Eaſt: on which climate, the Sunne in winter ſeaſon appeareth commonly twelue minutes after the eight houre in the fore noone. And then it ſeemed ſhe felt into a ſlumber, and in her ſléepe beheld a Viſion, which I ſhall plainely verifie in this manner.

Katherina's Viſion.

Iuno with *Phœbe* (who no great whiles gone,
Had kiſt the cheekes of ſlowe *Endimion*)
Walkt hand in hand: them followed *Morpheus*,
Playing on golden Lute, like *Orpheus*.
After him, *Aboron* and his Faierie Dame,
With troupes of iocond Faieries dauncing came.
Then did appeare the crew of *Phœbes* traine,
All clad in white aray (like flower *Dumaine*.)
And in their feitures faire (as Sommers Queene)
At girdle bare quiuers of arrowes keene.
Following them (off a pretie meaſurd ſpace)
A troupe of Satyres entred into place:
Leading Dame *Fortune*, fettred falt in chaines,
(So Fates decreed, for breeding Louers paines)
All theſe lookt pleaſant; none were ſeene to lowre,
Saue *Fortune*, that in thraldome had ſmall powre.
They neare the place where *Katherina* lay:
Thus then gan *Iuno* to faire *Phœbe* ſay.
Long time (too long) this wight endu'd with graces

Through

Through *Fortunes* ſpite (that thwarteth with diſgraces
All vertuous creatures, that on earth remaine:
Extolling Vices crew in Court to raigne)
Hauing endurde great grieuances and croſſes,
Is robd of friends, that ſhould redreſſe her loſſes.
Now time requires ſhe haue ſome comfort giuen,
For wounding woes her ſoule haue ouergrieuen.
No Nimph of all my traine (then *Phœbe* ſaid)
Hath liu'd more chaſte and vertuous than this maid:
And for that cauſe (*Ioues* Queene) none more than *I*,
With helping hand would guard her chaſtitie.
Thus then ſpake *Aboyon* with haughtie voice;
The Faierie King (dread Beauties) doth reioyce
That *Morpheus* ſummond hath this Parliament,
T'enact a fit concluding conſequent.
When waggiſh *Cupid* chaunſt to wound her hart,
At firſt vnwares with golden pointed Dart.
(As *Fortune* now liues) liu'd then ſeruilely
To pleaſe his mother, in my cuſtody.
Wherefore my minde is willing, forward preſt,
To haue her woes and miſeries redreſt.
My nimble Faieries ſhall direct her make,
That neare theſe walles he ſhall his paſſage take.
And ſtirr'd by loyall Loue, ſhall giue conſent
That night to lie with her, through due euent.
And from their breaſts Ile driue all feare and care,
(*Morpheus* replide whil'ſt they together are.
And ſhe (quoth *Phœbe*) meane while ſhall not lacke
My helpe, to bring her enuious foes to wracke.
Then *Iuno* ſaid (whilſte *Fortune* to her ſelfe)
Auowde to thwart them, and the Faierie Elfe,)
After tis knowne they both are man and wife,
Ile graunt them happineſſe all dayes of life.
Happie, happie, happie (then did they call)
Shall theſe true Louers liue: And vaniſh all

By that time that the Sunne was mounted neare (by the carriage of his swift flying horses) vnto the Meridian, had Katherina cast off slumbring; and with restored comfort, began to consider on her (foresaid) Dreame, and to contemplate on the Vision.

And may it be (said shée) that the iust Deities will deigne a wretch such fauour, as propitiously to rescue her in midst of hard extreames! Then (poore soule) prostrate thy selfe, and powre forth gratefull prayers, to their diuine powers.

Then she vttered a thankfull Hymne of praises and gratefull thankes, ledde with good hope that her ioyes should againe be replenished: which fell out indifferently, as I will specifie by these accidents, and first concerning our Load-starre.

Our Load-starre continuing vncessantly his course, will appeare this euening in Vespers place, at his appearance, somewhat beautifull, till Aquarius séeme to dash him out of countenance, with inclosures of mystie cloudes, and watrie showres: which for a time shall raigne in multitudes.

Iacomin had not long soiourned at the Inne, (hauing kept his bed a day or two, more to get ease in minde, than for trouble of any daungerous disease in body: marrie his wounds were somewhat gréene) but that his hurts were cured, and his body currant; yet in his minde continued such a corasiue, as made his colour chaunge, his complexion alter, and his strong composition extenuate. And all these disparagements were engendred by dispairing thoughts for Katherina, his dearest loue and delight: whom he accounted vtterly lost. With vacant steppes he treads through and through the stréetes of the Citie, enquiring of many (whom in his walkes he met) for a woman lately taken on the Seas by certain Gallies, but could neither be enformed of the one, nor heare of the other. Which made him in minde so outragious, as the furious Palatine, when he suspected, Medor had plaid false with his Angelica, abandoned all lawes of reasonable consideration, and cried out, woe, woe, woe, accursed caytiffe. I will (quoth he) walke henceforth purely (as fits my fortunes) in Pilgrimage: and will with heartie deuotions offer oblations of peace, and Orysons to possesse quiet at the shrines of all Saints, as my wandring steppes shall conduct me to their Tombes and Temples. And when I chaunce

to

to loke on any Louers miſhaps, I will adioyne as a note margi-
nal, *Sic Iacomin cum Katherina.* In which impenitrable reſolution,
diſcharging and diſcarding his followers, acquiting their coſts, and
contenting his Hoſteſſe, hauing paide all dues to all (ſauing to Na-
ture) with fardle at his backe (like a Trauayler) poaſted out of
Towne, and kept his courſe that way, where his Katherina was
incloſed. Pacing by the Caſtle (at which he wondred, it ſeemed in
ſhewe ſo flouriſhing) he ſtaied his ſteppes a litle, gazing at the in-
grauen and carued Images with earneſt lokes, imagining it to be
ſome worthie Monaſterie. Hauing ſufficiently ſatiſfied his ſight, as
he began in his waie to foote it forward, Katherina (hauing before
eſpied him) eying him from a Caſement of the wide windowe, calde
Iacomin by name, twice or thrice aloud: vnto the which voice, af-
ter that a while he had liſtned, inquired, who calleth Iacomin? And
therewithal lifting his eyes aloft at the windowe, ſawe her face,
whom his heart ſo highly honoured. What Catherina (quoth he:)
I, I, thy Katherina (my deare Iacomin) ſaide ſhee: And then for
exceeding ioy both euen remained ſurpriſed with a ſowning trance,
hauing their ſences euen ingaged by an extaſie: But remembring
themſelues, Iacomin began to enquire how ſhe happened into that
hold, and to whom the houſe that held her ſo ſeuerely was belon-
ging: Shee repeated the whole ſumme and ſubſtance briefly vnto
him: which Iacomin hauing heard, And pittie tis, I trow (ſaid he)
that ſo faire a place, ſhould ſerue for ſo fowle a purpoſe. But what
remedie (ſweete heart) replied Katherina: heere ſtandes mine ho-
nour in hazard, and my credite in ſuſpence; euery houre awayt I,
when he wil offer (ſhameleſſe tyrant as he is) to giue an aſſault to
cracke my chaſtitie: all which yet remaine ſound and perfect, who-
ly dedicated and deuoted vnto thee, as vnto their worthieſt poſſeſſor
and onely Patron. Protect them then (deare Iacomin) and enioy
them: whilſt thou liueſt leaue them not, in the handes of others, if
thou loue them: For as the Bird Aragen, is ſaide neuer to ſing af-
ter ſhe is taken: no more can a modeſt maide reioyce, if once ſhee
chaunce by lufts inſnarings to be ouertaken. Then as we loue one
another, ſo let vs liue togither: or if the date of our dayes haſten to-
wards an end, let vs ende our liues at once togither. Returne til
ſome at night (good Loue) from whence you came, and when you

behold the night beginnes to couer the Caſterne clymate with pitchie cloudes: repaire againe to this place, and bring with thée ſome ſtrong cordes, by whoſe helpe thou maiſt hauing once climbed that launched Trée (for a troupe of Cedars, as loftie as thoſe of Libanus, ſtood prying with their ſtately toppe-boughes neare the windowes) by my helpe winding thée vp, maiſt come into this open Caſement. Or if thou feareſt to aduenture thy ſelfe to aſcende ſo high, for feare thou ſhouldſt miſſe both thy ſoting and holdfaſt, and ſo ſuſtaine a fall (which the heauens forebid, that thou in Katherinas ſight ſhouldſt ſuffer) yet wil thy countenance comfort me, whileſt I remaine comforted by thy reclaiming conference.

Then anſwered Iacomin (his heart dauncing the while within his reconciled breaſt) vnto her motion mentioned with theſe feruent ſpéeches.

By the immortall Gods (faire and faithful Loue) ſaide hée, who with my good Angel haue gouerned my féete directly to finde this place (by following with proſperous pace a happie path) I ſolemnely here in the ſight of heauen, and aſpect of the heauenly powers, avow, euen anon in the twilight, to returne hither againe with all ſpéed conuenient: At which time (Katherina) ſée that thou ſet the Caſement wide open, in ſigne thou doeſt expect my comming.

By that loue which loyallie I owe thée, (ſaide Katherina) I promiſe it: And performe it too, I truſt (quoth Iacomin:) I, and I liue (ſaide ſhée) til that appoynted time: as ſure as I kiſſe this hand in ſtead of your delicious lippes, I wil.

And (quoth hée) as certainly as I buſſe this fiſt, wiſhing I might as eaſily touch your faire chéekes, for requital of your tryed friendſhippe, I will not faile to bée héere at that preſence.

Which ſpéeches by both parties, with many more proteſtations being breathed forth, and ſundry beckenings made, after that they were ſilent: Iacomin repaired againe to his former Lodging.

His honeſt Hoſte and Hoſteſſe were exceéding glad to behold their Gueſt, and ſo were the reſt, for that they perceiued

ued his outrage was now quelled by reaſon. Yée tolde them, hée had beene comforted by a Friend, and that hée would not trouble them to make any prouiſion for his Supper, becauſe he was in a maiſter fore-ſped, becauſe fore-bidden to feaſte that night abroad. But yet wil I drinke (quoth he) a cuppe of Canarie in my Chamber, if you pleaſe. With a very good will ſaide his Hoſte. And ſo the one went to his Chamber, and the other went fil the Wine.

After that Katherina had loſt the ſight of her Loue, thinking euery minute a moneth, and euery houre a yeare, til he ſhould returne: her minde being moued with excédyng admyration, ſhée freely licenced her tongue thus to be talkatiue as followeth.

What glorie, is comparable to gracious good will? or what life, equall to loue? Courtly pompe decayeth through peſtiferous diſſentions, as can my Parents broyles make manifeſt in Palermo: And life is allway in hazard to be loſt: witneſſe the miſeries of the maimed, and miſhappes of the mightieſt: and the fall of theſe Kings and Emperours, can teſtifie, certifie and certificate thus commonly ſpecified.

Hector, Hanno, Hanniball dead; and Pompey, Pirrhus ſpild,
Scipio, Cyrus, Cæſar ſlaine; and Alexander kild.

And yet good will (quoth ſhée) continueth after death; elſe had not Achilles ſo cruelly reuenged the fall of his deare friend (ſlaine by Hectors Launce) againe on valiaunt Hector. Nor Hercules with his Clubbe on ſhoulder, and cladde in his Lyons Caſe, woulde haue ſo ſtriued to reuoke his deare Pirethous from the ſhades of Limbo: Oh, the ſurpaſſing vertue of friendly good-will, (which conioynes a Pelides with Oreſtes, and a Damon in firme league with Pitheas) is continuall, perdurable, and eternall.

And as for loue, more delicious, than ỹ ſwæt kernel of ỹ Nut; more comfortable, than the ſugred iuice of the Grape; more ſauory, than the wholſom ſmel of Myrrhe: indureth long, long after life is ended;

else would not Orpheus stirred on through the essence of loue, haue sought by sounding musicke to pacifie the angrie powers of Hell: and to require of blacke Pluto, the restoring to life againe of his lost Loue, lately made his Bride. O the admirable and vnrehearseable power of good will! O the glorious and gracious vertue of soueraigne loue! Without the which, light, is but like darknesse: life, but death: gold, but drosse: health, but sickenesse: might, but miserie: ioy, but annoyance: ease, but disease: and in fine, the whole Earth, but a confused Chaos.

If all the precepts of the Sages, al the principles of Philosophers, and al the praises that haue tooke procedings from Poets braines, were setled on this subiect: yet could not the foresight of the one, the wisedome of that, nor the wit of the other, comprise a period, the efficacie, essence, & vertue therof. Then much lesse maist thou Katherina expresse the summarie effect, of so exquisite a quintessence: or shewe but the representing shadow, of such a rare superficies: Thy tongue faulters, though thy thoughts faile not: feeding on such an excellent substance, whose fulnesse seemes to satisfie thee, and yet in no respect remaineth lessened.

Hauing so said, she wart silent, and had her minde exercised with muses: which rauisht her sences with such supernal conceits, as that her heart euen reckoned it selfe deified.

Iacomin in the meane time at his lodging rested careful, bearing an eye to the maine chance, and the dayes chaunge: that now was euen ouertaken by the fresh Horses of the night. High time was it now for him, to hasten, and loue so suffered him not to be slacke, that he was at the Castle, had climbde the Tree, and nimbly by agilitie, ascended and entred the Casement (which his Loue had set wide open) before that Katherina thought him halfe towardes her. For he minded not to call vnto her, vntil he had past the daunger of climbing, least that his downfal (if so it chanced) should breed her dolour.

When she beheld her Loue crèeping in at the Casement (driuen with his suddaine presence from her memento) she ranne and receiued him in her armes with an heartie Saluie. And when they had imparted mutual congies, (their eyes courting each other with amorous glances and steadie lookes) they fel to louely imbracings:

and

and thus questioned Iacomin whilst he held her about the middle with folding armes.

Katherina (said he) feruent loue hath made me light, to gaine thy company: and now suddains doubt giues the onset against my brest, and suspect of afterclaps assaults my heart with hard battery, to make me yeeld vnto dispaire. But the heauens and all the celestions, all Godheads know, the vndaunted fortitude of my zealous affections, and the constant motion of my loue-hallowing minde. For though seuen-mouthed Nilus should ware drie, and that I should endure the thirst of Tantalus; or if my bread should turn to stones, and I abide more toyle than Sisiphus: If the earth should be turnd to steele, the sea be set a fire, and the starres forsake the skie and become barres of brasse to affright me, to the intent I should change the motion of my life, or forsake loue; yet would I rather endure ten thousand deaths, than be found for my mindes mutation, faithlesse, faultring fickle and so faultie. And therefore (sweete Katherina) I conture thee by the diuine essence of that loue, wherewith through the infusion of heauenly graces thou art inspired, towards me, tel me if the lewde king hath appointed any time to visit thee? By heauens innumerable ioyes (said she) possest by all the blessed Senate there, (deare Loue) I avow, thy Katherina neuer gaue consent that at any time the kings presence should repaire hither; neither haue I heard by any, that he mindes to visit me. Haue all bidden thee good night then (quoth Iacomin) and hath the Keeper fast lockt the doores, or is not yet departed the Castle? Long since (said she) and therefore you need not doubt (I hope) of any danger: For no theefe on earth I protest whilst I haue breath, shal rob you of your right and interest.

These Lampes had not long possest the oyle of their parley, to lighten their thoughts, but that (after they had both together made them vnreadie, and were laide in bed) dimme sleepe drowsily eclipsed their eye beames, with cloudie slumbers. So that their mindes, erc while the mappes of cares, and entertainers of watchful woes, were now (Endimion-like) growne careleste; respecting neyther feareful Cautions, nor doubtful Caueats.

This while was the King with his Guard come to the Castle, to court with louely Rhetoricke his new-come Goddesse, deeming,

that now her moodie minde, was by the pleasure of the place, become mirthfull; and her heart, erst harned with sorrow, to be now softned with solace. And causing the Keeper to vnlocke the gates, ascended the grecles, and came to Katherines Chamber doore, willing him to open it: wherein when he entred, and beheld other lying there in bed, imbracing his Venus; not able to endure that sight, he flung forth the chamber, giuing them straight charge and commaund, that when these sleepers should awake, they should both be bound backe to backe to a stake, and end their liues (as traitors ought) in flames of fire: and hauing pronounced that wrathfull doome, with rage departed.

Here (Gentles) should I tell you, how Iuno being incensed with anger for this accident, committed through Fortunes spite, (descending downe from Olympus in her glorious Chariot, drawn by her byrds, whose starr-cied prauncing plumes present before their mistresse eyes, so many prettie colours, as doth the Rain-bow in the heauens) checkt her presomption with an *Egregiam vero laudem*; and blamed the Faieries and Satyres for their slacknesse; bidding them to binde fast her hands straighter, that she might not turne so thwartfully her maligning wheele. But that must I needs cut off to auoyd tediousnesse: yet will I giue you to knowe, that after shee had rung a peale of scolding at Fortune (on the one side) and hadde gently (on the other side) chastised the negligence of her leaders; shee entreated Morpheus to obserue his part yet in any case: abolving by all her Deitie, rather then this faire couple should endure any wracke, shee would her selfe at the instance brandish forth with Maiestie, to withstand all those that should performe theyr executions.

Flames? (said shee) shall scorching flames consume my worthy subiects? No, Ile send Boreas, both with windes and showers to quench the fires: Whilest with Hymenæus helpe, Ile hide them, as erst I did Æneas and Dido, in some vaultie Caue.

And so commaunded her glorious Foules (whose wings and taile-plumes stood proudly spread) in haste to carrie her vnto the highest heauens, from whence shee entred to behold the conse-

quent: minding wholly to conserue them both in safetie, although she should see them bound at stake, and stand in extreamest peril of kindeling flames.

Soundly yet rested these slumberings friends (little thinking what sower sawce the King had ordained, minding it should bee mingled mongst their swéetes) til the trauayling Sunne was gone well onwarde in the East: All which time did the Kings Guard attend them. Assone as their eyes awaking opened, they were informed of the Kings being there, and of his bloudie sentence, pronounced against them. Whereat first they mourned, but afterward well resolued to endure their menaced death, made themselues readie to take the end of their liues on earth.

Now (my Loue) quoth Katherina, shall the world beholde in vs, a spectacle, presenting fidelitie. In thée, loue; in mée, loyaltie; in thée, constancie: in mée, chastitie: in both, firme affection and sure confidence.

As shée would proceéd, the Executioners came, and bounde their armes, which both indured with admired patience: the punishers pittying their distresse with some kinde remorse, and would haue spared them, had not they all bene bound on paine of death, to do the Kings commaund.

This while were some busied in putting vp the stake, some prouiding Faggots, Pitch-bales, Strawe, and all other Fuell: Which breéding a rumour with suddaine admiration, in vulgar eares, multitudes came in heapes vnto the place of execution, expecting the performance of a wofull stratagem.

Forth at last were brought these wofull Louers, guarded on each side with Billes and Holbards, like rebellious Traytors: and bound they were to the stake, backe to backe, contrary to their mindes: who earnestly intreated the araigners, to suffer them end their liues face to face. But the cruel King had otherwise giuen in charge, and that bred their greatest griefe. Yet patience preuailed with them in this their too seuere handling.

What, my deare, (quoth Iacomin) they may by this seperation robbe vs, of comfortable countenance in this fraile and transitorie life: but their crueltie cannot bereaue vs of sight in the glorious

Sphere:

ſphere on hie, when our immortal ghoaſtes going towards Ioues Pallace, ſhal meete in the milke-white way. Which words (vttered with gaſtly voice) moued al the beholders to bewaile the downfall (with dealwie teares) of ſo faire a couple.

Then were remorſleſſe brandes of fire brought to enkindle the Fuel: and Iuno had in readineſſe placed watrie Iris directly ouer that clymate to ſhoote forth ſhowres: When, loe (as pleaſed the iuſt pwning Deities, that at their good-pleaſures can preſerue the vertuous from vniuſt perſecutions, and vndeſerued puniſhments) the Lorde high Admyrall (drawne in a coſtly Coarhe of Ebonie) rode by, and of the people inquired what the priſoners were; but was not reſolued by any, but was told by all, they were ſtraungers that were to die.

His honour therefore ſtanding on his ſaddle-cloth, queſtioned (comming neare vnto the ſtake) their names? He anſwered, Iacomin mine: and mine Katherina ſaid ſhée.

Of what Countrey (replied the Admirall) are ye? Of Scicilia (ſaide they). Of what place in Scicilia? (quoth the Admirall) Both of Palermo anſwered Iacomin.

Of what Parents in Palermo are you ſprung? (ſaide hée) I am the hapleſſe ſonne of Signior Iacomin Pierro, (anſwered the one.) And I the daughter of Don Alexander Bartolo (ſaide the other.) Doth the King, who hath condemned ye (quoth he then haſtily) know either of you?

Neither of vs, and it ſhall pleaſe you, (anſwered they) neither ſkils it much that our extreame fortunes and perils indured ſhould be knowne to his maieſtie: for theſe flames ſhall ende our lines, and with our wretched lines, our extreame miſeries. Yet be not driuen to diſpaire (replied the Admirall) I wil to the Court, and conferre with the King concerning you: And then giuing in charge on paine of death that they ſhould deferre a while (til they had word againe from him) to kindle the fires, he cauſed his Coachman to yerke onwarde his light-hoked Jennets to the Court: where when he was arriued, and diſmiſt from his Coache, was come into the Kings preſence: after ſome ſalute, he thus with bold ſtomacke breathed forth ſpéeches.

Can

Can they (quoth he) that place Kings, pull downe Kings? then looke thou once again to be beaten out of Tuniſe: For Scicilia, once our chiefe aide, will become our cruelleſt enemie: and thou be enforced to ſeeke a new Kingdome.

The King hauing heard theſe cracking thunders, ſtroken with feare of ſome ſcorching lightnings to follow, mildly anſwered the Admirall with theſe words.

Why, what is the cauſe my good Lord (ſaid he) of theſe ſudden threatnings? how haue I giuen occaſion to make our friends foes? or Scicilia our enemies?

Thou ſeekeſt (replied the Admirall) to burne the flouriſhing braunches of thoſe fruitefull ſtocks, which in thy greateſt extreams ſtood as ſtrongeſt ſupporters to hold thy ſeat from falling vnder Rebells yoake. Doeſt thou not remember how ſcarce thrice ſeuen yeares ſithens, Seigneor Iacomin Pierro, and Don Alexander Bartolo, the two egregious Viceroyes of Scicilia (did by ſending thee aſſiſtant Forces) ſeate thee (ſubduing valiantly thy inſulting foes) ſafely in thy Kingdome? and now for requitall, doeſt thou ſeeme to burne the onely iſſue of them both? for that the two faithfull Louers ſeeke the fruition of their loues? why, the younge Gentleman that is yonder (like a Traytor) at the ſtake, is the ſonne of Iacomin: and ſhe, the daughter off Bartolo; both euen deſtroyed through thy vnknowne ignorance.

Oh heauens! (quoth the King, breaking off this Dreery tale ere it was ended) I would not for my Crowne and Kingdome haue proued ſo tyrannous.

So tyrannous? (replied the Admirall) I well know not, whether they are not yet tortured and turned to aſhes or no: the executioners were by thee ſo ſtraightly charged, to haſten on their torments, and inkindle the fires.

By Iupiter (then inraged ſaid he) I am then vndone, vtterly vndone, vndone for euer. Ho whoſe there, ho? come hither one. Gallope to the ſtake yonder on a Courſer, that can outrunne Pegaſus in ſwift ſet race: and ſee if the priſoners there ſtanding, do yet breathe aliue: what not there yet? Oh how my heart houers for heauineſſe in my breaſt, as though it would get forth, and run thither before my poſting ſeruant? had I ouer-carowſt my ſelfe, and

ouerdrenched my braines with wine, as would the great golbing Alexander: that so drunkenly I condemned these straungers, enquiring neither what they were, whence they came, nor whither they would: Oh infortunate chaunce! Oh synister chaunge! By the Gods, if they survive, I will excommunicate from my breast this vile humour of lustfull venerie (engendred in me through wanton sloath) and will banish from my bosome all those Curtezan-like Dames: whose blandishments and insnaring flatteries haue so liuely vpheld my youthes leaud lust: For now, and neuer till now, did I conceiue what was true Loue: with which improper tytle, my subtle Concubines (queanish and whorish drabs as they are) haue mantled my vnbridled lust. And so long, as that my behauiour hath beene more brutish than the vnreasonable beasts.

I now see the vanitie thereof, for hereby was I ledde to worke this vnmercifull mischiefe on the liues of these two constant Louers, whose setled mindes may bee made subiect to no exchaunge.

My amendment shall be my best repentance; for now I remember that, which long since I read, *Optima pœnitentia, vita noua*; and yet do I repent my frantick follies with hearty griefe, and by the propitious helpes of the Gods, my modest liuing hereafter, shall wipe cleane away the blemishes of my former life, so viciously and vilely ledde.

By this time were the two Louers (to the admirable applause of all the beholders) redeemed from fierie death, walking (*Magna comitante caterua*) with great iollitie towards the Court.

Newes was brought to the ioyfull King, that they were aliue, by some of the Guard, that posted apace before the rest for that purpose. And hauing heard that they were neare arriued, the Admirall went forth, and fairely saluted them at the Gates, conducting them vnto the King: who kindly receiued them (they both imparting diuine glance vnto his grace) with these conferring speeches.

Faire Princes (said he) I doubt not but the Deities haue determined the long lengthening of your dated dayes; and well may

your liues endure with happineſſe. For by the luſters of your wel-willing and wel-liuing, doo I behold the leaudneſſe of mine ill led life: by your vertues, my vices: by your loue, my luſt: by your conſtancies, my incontinencies.

And ioy I doo with incredible gladneſſe, that by the bright beames of (now praiſed be Gods) your liuely lookes, I am put to wit of both your royall Parents: And therefore (Princes) now freely be frolicke: for we will feaſt away all perils forepaſt. And what pleaſures I can wiſh or your ſelues will, do but (in token that you forgiue my intended iniuries vnwittingly minded againſt you) deigne to require or requeſt: and commaund, rather than demaund: and I will performe it to the vttermoſt Ace.

Then replied Iacomin, ſaying: Dread Prince, our verie ſoules abhorre the ſparkes of vnhumaine reuenge: and our minds (alway debonaire towarde our friendes) indure not to thinke on intended or inacted iniuries.

All the recompence that we would haue, is the hope, that our agréements ſhall amend all amiſſes: and our loue, exile all lowſeneſſe, (as you haue plighted by promiſe) for euer hereafter from your royall perſon: which will not only lift your honor (loft) vnto the higheſt altitude: but driue all into an admiration by ſo luckie a chaunge.

Which being ſaide, the King taking his ſeate, willing alſo the reſt ſo to take their eaſe: holding Iacomin by the hande (who then was placed nexte to his perſon) thus replied as followeth.

Vertuous Scicilian, mine owne motion for my amendment was much, but thy Princely words haue incenſed me tenne times more. For proofe therefore that I am perfectly moued with penitent compunction, behold what my minde wils me in your preſence, and before all theſe my honourable Lordes to haue performed, though it portray mine highly deſerued ſhame.

Then calling forthe the Keeper of his Caſtle, hée commaunded him, to bring before him, all theſe impudent dames, whoſe diſhoneſties had ſo mightily diſgraced his honours and dignities.

And whilest the Keeper went to accomplish his highnesse pleasure, he thus progressed in his speech.

My Castle, where you, most chaste and modest Katherina (said he, turning toward the place where she sate) were inclosed, containes in holde a hundred lavish and licentious Dames, whose wanton dispositions, haue (like pitch) defiled the glory of my youth. These will I bannish farre from my Court, willing them to recall themselues: for (they say commonly) take away the cause, and the effect will die. I haue heard that Israels King, who before in the name of Iehoua his God, slew with a stone (which he sent from a sling) the huge Giant Goliath, consenting afterward to wanton sinne (that assaulted him whilest in a Gallerie he subiected him to idle sloath) wrought the murther of one of his dearest Lords: therby inkindling against him, both the wrath of his God, and incurring dishonor vnto his name. The like had I (vile wretch) offensiuely against you almost committed: but that some good Angell guided our Admirall, to withstand such a mischiefe. Sith therefore so viciously to followe wantonnesse, is vily to be a bond-slaue to all villainies: to shun the deadly seruitude of the one, I will vndo the diuelish instigation of the other.

And with that entred the virgins into place: wherefore hee commaunded his Treasuror, to bestowe on them seuerally an hundred markes: and so to conuey them from the Court, to leade the remnant of their liues in their native homes.

Whose liberalitie bestowed towards them for their maintenance, was by all there present much commended. And then the King to driue away melancholy from all (that seemed to maruell at the lookes of his halfe-discontent darlings, and choise minions) caused Tables and dice to be brought forth, to breed disporte: and Cardes in packs to be throwne on bord, to passe away the time, till the Cooke and Cator were prouided to serue in dinner. Himselfe at the Chesse-bord stood as a Chalenger; and younge Iacomin to shewe himselfe a champion, vndertooke the combat at that wittie weapon: alway with caution (after he had to trie, entred the lists) keeping him free from annoying checke. And when their gaming was ended, they feasted, and were frolicke.

After this maner past these nobles the time together, for the

space

space of some three or foure dayes: in which time, the king had pro-uided a gallant Fleete to guide these Scicilians safely home to Palermo. And the Admirall made him ready to beare them company in that conduct.

Now hath our Load-starre (Gentlemen) past *Aquarius*, and paceth like Athlantas Coursers, towards the exaltation of Pisces: whose scales shewing and shining bright and cleare, gaue him libertie now at last freely to prognosticate happy successe. And therfore with the prosperous running of this wandring Starres race, am I in briefe to shut vp the Catostrophe of all the Scenes.

Our yong Scicilians, giuing the Tunisian King abundant thankes for their gracious entertainments; with the Lord Admirall, departed from Tunise; and manned with a faire Fleete, shipt themselues, and crost the Seas; cutting through the Ocean, till peaceably they attained the Port of Palermo.

Fame resounding through common eares report of their safe arriuall, moued the dissentious Peeres, Pierro and Bartolo, with seuerall ioies, and yet could they not mittigate their rancord enuies, nor allwage their minds, from seeking mutual reuenge: in so much that they scarce deigned to bid welcome their owne children.

Which being noised in the eares of Don Andrea Alizandra (then dwelling in the countrey) in regard of his countreys weale, and Scicilians well-fare, with all conuenient speed repaired to Palermo; and informing the Tunisian Admirall how disorderly euery thing stood in hap-hazard; caused him by sound of Trumpet to summon the Citizens to the Parliament house. Whereupon the Aldermen and Elders presented themselues peaceably before the Admirall and Alizandra. Whilest they were imployed there in consultation, came Pierro with his troupe: and a litle after, Bartolo with a great traine. Who then at each other most wilfully shote darts of sharpe reuilings, and with bitter raylings, make repetitions of their wrongs mutually sustained by other: not content to rest satisfied till they were reuenged; so that had they not by pollicie bene preuented, there would haue bene wrought a bloudy massacre on both parties. But the Admirall and Alizandra causing silence, mongst all the assembly to be proclaimed by sound of Trumpet, on paine of death, to euery common man; and present

imprisonment to euery noble man: whilest they were all silent, the wise Admirall thus vsed his Oration.

Is it possible (ye Sicilians) that men should be so possest with brutish rancour, as that their minds may be directed by no regard of humaine reason? May not the daily bleading of bloud, the murthering of the Commons, the dommages of your native countrey, continually proffered procure your hearts to agreements, and perswade your thoughts from hammering on furious reuenge? Shall the suckling waile, the child weepe, the innocent lament, the maiden moane, and the oppressed widow mourne, to behold these deadly discentions? May, shall the murthered Ghoasts, of those, that by these intestine hurliburlies haue traiterously bene brought to vntimely deathes, with outcries prouoke the dooming heauens, to powre downe plaguie vengeance on your seditious heads? Behold, the Gods in mercie haue wrought myraculous meanes to vnite your discentious Families againe togither, and to settle them in one concordant sympathy. See your honourable issues, (euen driuen through your discords into deadly dispaire to haue any happie day, for condeigning of their loues) are beyond hope safely returned home to amend your tyrannous liues. May not you ioy at the vertuous amitie of your children (whose indissoluble league is concluded both by the powers of heauen and earth) and abashed with shame, blush at your brutishnesse? Hath Tunise King, your friendly wel-wisher; and I, your present wel-willer, manned them hither with a gallant nauie, to haue this welcome? What shall we say, but as it is bruted of you in other countreys: that your two peace-freezing heads, seeme to enforce the quiet of all the members of Scicilia, through cold choller to congeale? Is it not dishonour to hold such discord: is it not reproachto be accounted so rash: is it not infamous, without sufficient cause to persist so enuious: then for shame chaunge your outragious angers, and entertaine chearefully these couragious Louers: I meane not one without the other, (for they both are one) but both in one, and one in both. Then shall your ruinous estate be corroborated, your honours standing (in hazard) remaine fortified; and your countreys commodities decaying, abundantly multiplied.

As he would haue said farther, the whole multitude gaue

loud

lond ſhoutes, and admirable ſhrill applaudities: wherewith the mindes of theſe powerful Péeres on both ſides were ſo moued, that forgiuing and forgetting all euills forepaſt, reconciled themſelues with mutual imbracings, and welcommed both their children, and the worthy Admirall with heartie gratulation: to their no ſmall ioyes, and generall contentments of the whole Commons: that for ſeuen dayes ſpace they continually rung bels, and made bonefires, whileſt the Nobles of the Land, banqueted and made holy day: with Iacomin and Katherina, celebrating a vniuerſall feſtiuall ouer the whole Realme: that now ſéemed to compare this their peace (as the Oracles had foretold) ſo happily againe renewed, to the auntient *Aureo ſeculo.*

FINIS.

THus (courteous Gentles) hath our *Load-ſtarre* runne his appointed race: and following their order, who treading cunningly an artificiall Maze, after diuers intricate turnings and by-pathes, make their regreſſe where firſt they had their progreſſe: is come neare againe vnto *Aries*: as hauing directly attained the very poynt of that Horizon, where at firſt it tooke originall in the Spring-tide. In the Spring therefore of their pleaſures (all winterly ſtormes of perills being paſt) will I leaue conſtant *Iacomin* and *Katherina*: wiſhing all true and loyall Loners, like liuely ioyes. If you like well the courſe of this *Load-ſtarre*, I will with your fauour preſume to promiſe ſurely, to preſent you ſhortly with the Poem of *Virginities Verdure*. But in the meane while, to lighten your expectations, I could wiſh you, to looke on *Luſts Loſt Libertie*, performed by proud tyrannous *Tarquine* (a luſtie ladde, that of late I haue trained to the Stage) ſheading bloud both by polliticke meanes, and publicque maſſacres. And when you haue beene ſufficiently ſatisfied, I hope (*non inuita Minerua*) to inuite you vnto ſome modeſt morall Banquet. Farewell.

Voluiſſe, ſat ſit.

FINIS.